Testarotho

4

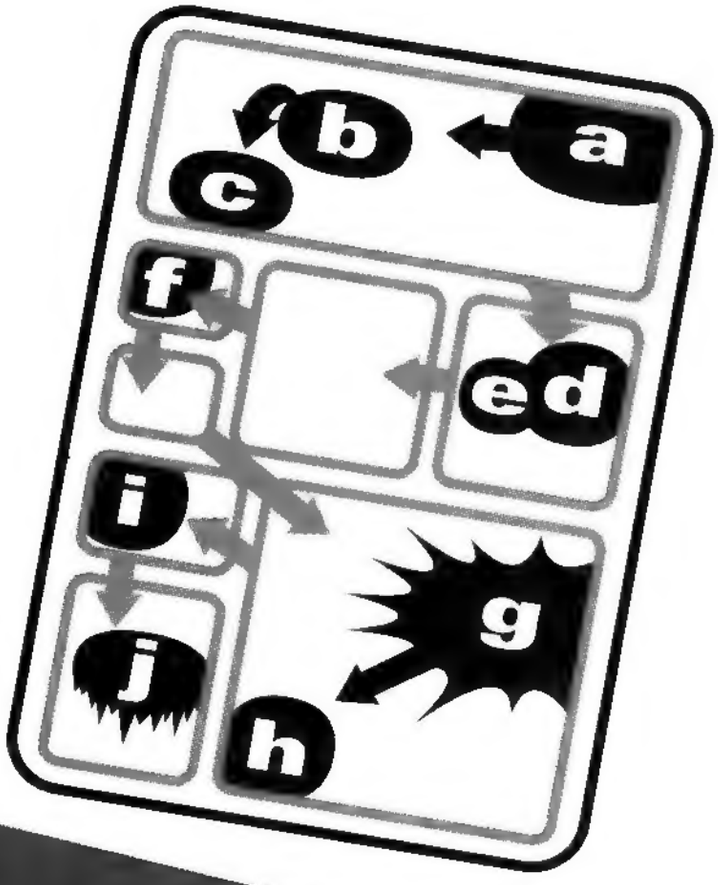
KEI SANBE

FLIP IT!!

All the pages in this book were created—and are printed here—in Japanese RIGHT-to-LEFT format. No artwork has been reversed, so you can read the stories the way the creators meant for them to be read.

RIGHT TO LEFT?!

Traditional Japanese manga starts at the upper right-hand corner, and moves right-to-left as it goes down the page. Follow this guide for an easy understanding.



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Testarotho

VOLUME 4

By Kei Sanbe

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Testarotho 4

WHISPER
SSHH
DALGLISH... CARDINAL
GOOD NEWS!
I JUST RECEIVED WORD THAT...
...GAR-RINCHA IS DEAD.
SLATTER
SLATTER
CLOP CLOP CLOP
IS THAT SO?!
WAHA-HA!
HEH...
HA HA HA HA HA HA...
HUA HA HA...
GAR-RINCHA IS...

BERTONE'S CURSE LIVES ON. ANOTHER CANDIDATE FOR THE 12TH APOSTLE HAS BEEN ELIMINATED.
HEE HEE HEE...
THE COUNCIL AT NEO ARSEN WILL BE HAPPY TO HEAR OF HIS DEATH AS WELL.
MAESTRO ZAKARO!
IT IS ALWAYS BEST TO REMAIN ON THE OFFENSIVE, DON'T YOU THINK?
DOOM
CLOP CLOP
HA HA HA HA HA!
MY ONLY REGRET...
CLATTER!!
RIGHT NOW...
...WHAT MATTERS MOST IS THAT WE CAPTURE THOSE MATERIA LEADERS BEFORE THE CORINTHIANS DO.
HEE HEE...
TO THAT END, GARRINCHA MADE A LOVELY DECOY.
RATTLE
HA HA HA HA HA HA HA HA HA!
...IS THAT I DIDN'T GET TO SEE THAT SANCTIMONIOUS BASTARD'S COLD, DEAD FACE!

Passage 8:

Black Death Mask

HA HA
HA HA HA HA
HA HA HA HA!
...YOU MUST STAY ON THE OFFENSIVE!
ELIMINATE ANYONE WHO GETS IN OUR WAY!
DO YOU UNDER-STAND, ZAKARO? KILL THEM! KILL THEM ALL!
EVEN IF THAT MEANS RISKING OPEN WAR WITH THE CORINTHIANS...

PLAGUE IS SPREADING AROUND SETENBURO. THIS CONTAINS A MEDICINE WHICH SHOULD PROTECT YOU FROM IN-FECTION.
OH... I SEE.
AND A SEDA-TIVE.

CARDINAL, DRINK THIS.
WHAT IS IT?
...

ACTUALLY, IT'S NOT THE REBELS OR THE CORINTHIANS WE SHOULD BE WORRIED ABOUT.
LEO-NEDUS AND HIS TEAM ARE MORE OF A THREAT.
THAT SAID...
...I DON'T BELIEVE OUR MAN WILL MAKE ANY ERRORS...
THERE'S NO NEED TO WORRY ABOUT THE MATERIA REBELS.
WE'VE SET TRAPS FOR THEM THROUGH-OUT THE REGION.

I'LL SPLIT YOU IN HALF.
DON'T MOVE...
...BITCH!
VOOM

I FOUND IT--THE TATTOO!
HEH HEH HEH...
GASP
!!
ROAR

DID SHE DO THAT?
WHAT THE HELL HAPPENED?
DID YOU SEE THAT?!
THMP
NO...
...MARTINA.
FOOM
NOT EVEN A SCRATCH, HM?
YOU'RE LUCKY HE WAS A SKILLED SOLDIER...
IF YOU WERE NEARBY, YOU SHOULD'VE COME AND HELPED ME SOONER.
IT'S NOT NICE TO LET A GIRL SUFFER...
...DOGA.
NOW, NOW, BABY. NO NEED TO GET ALL WORKED UP.

DOGA!!

I THOUGHT YOU'D NEVER COME BACK.
DON'T BE MISTAKEN.
I JUST TOOK SOME TIME OFF TO DETERMINE WHO TO KILL.
IT'S NOT THAT I GAVE UP FIGHTING.
SO, WHAT DO WE DO?
THERE IS NOTHING TO DEBATE. THE WOMAN IS A MATERIA LEADER.
WE CAPTURE HER...
...AND TAKE HER BACK.
AND DOGA...
BRING HIM ALONG, TOO.
HE'S KILLED ENOUGH OF OUR BEST MEN...
...THAT WE'LL SEE HIM BURN FOR IT.
HEH HEH HEH...
DAMN TESTA-ROTHO.
YOU HONESTLY THINK YOU CAN CAPTURE ME?
YOU'RE THE ONES...
...WHO ARE GONNA BURN!

HOW ARE THE CHILDREN DOING?
THEIR FEVER IS DOWN... FOR THE MOMENT.
DOCTOR.
CLI-CLI-CLI-CLI-CLI-CLI
BUT...
...THIS MEDICINE ALONE ISN'T ENOUGH TO CURE THEIR ILLNESS.
BESIDES...
...THE SMALLER AND WEAKER CHILDREN HAVE BEEN THE FIRST TO SHOW SIGNS OF ILLNESS.
THE INFECTION IS JUST STARTING TO SPREAD, BUT, SHORT OF A MIRACLE, THESE TWO AREN'T LIKELY TO SURVIVE THE FEVER.

DOCTOR, HAVE YOU CONSIDERED DRAWING BLOOD FROM THE PATIENTS?
THAT TREATMENT IS MORE A DEATH SENTENCE THAN A CURE.
I'VE WATCHED MANY A DOCTOR LEAD A CURABLE PATIENT TO AN EARLY DEATH...
...FROM DRAWING TOO MUCH BLOOD.
THE CONCEPT OF REMOVING BAD BLOOD IS SOUND..
...BUT BAD BLOOD MUST BE REPLACED BY GOOD BLOOD.
ARSENAL PHYSICIANS HAVE ATTEMPTED TO USE THE BLOOD OF...
...COWS, PIGS AND OTHER ANIMALS...
...BUT NONE OF THEM SAVED THE PATIENT.
WHAT ABOUT HUMAN BLOOD?
I WONDER IF I CAN DONATE...
...MY BLOOD...

THE LAST TIME THIS PLAGUE SWEPT THROUGH OUR LAND...
...MILLIONS OF PEOPLE ACROSS THE CONTINENT...
...DIED FROM THE DISEASE.
BACK THEN, A REFUGEE TOLD ME ABOUT A PHYSICIAN WHO HAD...
...TRANSFERRED BLOOD FROM A HEALTHY PARENT TO HER SICK CHILD.
HE SAID THAT THE CHILD ENDED UP SURVIVING.
DON'T BE ABSURD.
IF YOU DID THAT, YOU WOULD DIE.
I...
...I DON'T MIND.
I WOULD DO ANYTHING...
...IF IT WOULD HELP THE CHILDREN TO SURVIVE.
BUT I DON'T EVEN HAVE THE PROPER EQUIPMENT HERE TO DO THAT.
AND ANYWAY, THE SURVIVAL RATE OF PATIENTS WHO UNDERGO BLOOD TRANSFUSIONS IS LESS THAN 5%!
IS THAT...
...SO...?
FOR...
...TU
...NA
...
PANT

SMILE
AH...I SEE. LET'S GET WELL SOON AND WE'LL ALL GO TO FORTUNA TOGETHER.
YOU WANT TO GO TO FORTUNA?
...YES.
E... ENA!

ENA'S BROTHER IS BURIED THERE.
IT'S A GRAVEYARD ON THE OUTSKIRTS OF TOWN.
FORTUNA?

I WAS JUST PASSNG THROUGH, BUT I WANTED TO DO WHAT I COULD TO HELP.

...IN SEARCH OF FOOD AND COMPANION-SHIP, IT BECAME A SORT OF CITY OF LOST CHILDREN, IF YOU WILL.
THEY CAME HERE FROM SETENBURO AND THE SURROUNDING TOWNS...
ALL THE CHILDREN IN THIS PART OF THE CITY, YOU SEE, ARE ORPHANS.

IT WAS THREE YEARS AGO...
...WHEN I FIRST VISITED THESE SLUMS.

AND HE GAVE THE WHOLE LOAF TO THE YOUNG GIRL...
...AND SMILED.
THIS BOY TOOK THE BREAD FROM MY HAND AND RAN TOWARDS HIS YOUNGER SISTER.
...I'VE EVER SEEN.
THAT IMAGE WAS THE MOST BEAUTIFUL THING...
I DECIDED TO STAY HERE.
I DECIDED TO DEVOTE THE REST OF MY LIFE TO THESE CHILDREN.
THE BOY'S SMILE MADE ME REALIZE THE LIFE I HAD LIVED UP TILL THAT POINT WAS A FALSE LIFE.
...MY FACE WAS BURNED IN AN ACCIDENT.
IT WAS RIGHT AFTER...
IT WAS ANOTHER MONTH BEFORE I SAW THEM AGAIN.
...AND HIS POOR SISTER ENA, HERE...
...HAD NOWHERE TO TURN.
THE BOY HAD DIED OF STAR-VATION...

I DECIDED TO TAKE OFF THE MASK I'D ALWAYS WORN.
BY DOING SO, I HAD HOPED THAT ONE DAY...
...I'D BE ABLE TO SHARE WITH THESE KIDS THE SAME WARM SMILE THAT THE BOY HAD SHOWN HIS SISTER.
I DIDN'T WANT TO SCARE OFF MY CHILDREN...
...BY SHOWING THEM THESE BURNS.
YOU SAY THAT YOU RECEIVED THOSE BURNS THREE YEARS AGO?
THAT'S RIGHT.
DON'T BE SILLY...
NONE OF THESE CHILDREN...
...WOULD BE SCARED TO SEE YOUR FACE.
.....

ALL OF A SUDDEN HER BODY WENT INTO CONVULSIONS.
PANT
PANT
THIS ISN'T GOOD...NOT EVEN AN ANTI-FEBRILE CAN EASE THESE FITS.
I WONDER HOW MUCH LONGER HER FRAIL BODY CAN KEEP UP WITH THE ILLNESS?
THIS IS EXACTLY WHAT I WAS AFRAID OF...
AH...
...
AH...
HUH...
PANT
PANT
PANT
D... DOCTOR ...
HOW DOES SHE LOOK?
DOCTOR!!
ENA IS--!
DA...
PANT
PANT
...DD ...
...WHAT ...?
...DAD ...
...DY ...
...

MY LITTLE GIRL...
I...
I FEEL SO HELP-LESS...
E...
...ENA...

SAY YOUR GOOD-BYES TO ENA.
ALL RIGHT, EVERY-ONE.
SNIFFLE
SNIFFLE
SOB
SOB
SOB
Carlos.
Ena.
I HADN'T BEEN OUTSIDE IN AWHILE BUT...
...IT DOESN'T SEEM LIKE THE PLAGUE HAS SPREAD ANY.
IT'S STILL CONCEN-TRATED JUST AROUND THE CHURCH.
STRANGE.
THIS IS STRANGE INDEED.
WHAT COULD THIS MEAN?
WHAT'S GOING ON?!

CRUMPLE
.....
ENA... YOU CALLED ME...
..."FATHER."
TAROTH...
ENA... RESTS IN PEACE BESIDE HER BROTHER.
I'M SORRY FOR CAUSING YOU TROUBLE.
DON'T MENTION IT.
I HAVEN'T BEEN THAT MUCH OF HELP...
YES YOU HAVE.
YOU'RE A GOOD DOCTOR.
PLEASE CONTINUE TO LOOK AFTER MY CHILDREN... IN THE FUTURE.
OF COURSE.

RATTLE
RATTLE
RATTLE
CLATTER
CLATTER
CLATTER
I CAN SEE IT IN THE DISTANCE ...
SETENBURO.
clop
clop
THUNK
GASP!
!

ARE YOU THINKING WHAT I'M THINKING...
...LEONEDUS?
YEAH.
SLIDE
HE NOTICED US, TOO.
EVEN THOUGH WE DISGUISED OURSELVES, HE SAW RIGHT THROUGH IT.
A DIS-GUISE ...?
IT SEEMS THAT WAY.
DO YOU KNOW WHO HE IS?
YOU MEAN TO SAY YOU DON'T, LEONEDUS?
HE HAS A STRANGE AURA ABOUT HIM...

I ONLY MET THE GUY ONCE WHEN I WAS A KID...
...BUT I'D RECOGNIZE THAT PRESENCE ANY-WHERE.
WHOOO...
IF THERE'S ANY WAY WE CAN AVOID HIM...
...WE'D BE WISE TO DO SO.
WHAT'S THE PRESENCE I'M FEELING?
GRT GRT
HE SHOULD BE ALONE BUT...
...IT FEELS AS IF HE'S SURROUNDED BY MANY SOLDIERS.
IT LOOKS LIKE HE'S EAGER TO FIGHT US.
WE MAY NOT HAVE ANY CHOICE.
I'M SURE YOU KNOW HIS REPUTATION.
HE'S MAESTRO ZAKARO'S MENTOR.
RUMOR HAS IT THAT ONLY ZAKARO KNOWS HIS REAL NAME.
NOBODY KNOWS WHAT HIS FACE LOOKS LIKE...
...AS ALL WHO HAVE SEEN IT HAVE BEEN SLAIN.
I HEARD THAT HE WAS KILLED WHILE PURSUING DOGA...
...BUT IT DOESN'T SURPRISE ME TO FIND THAT HE'S STILL ALIVE.

HE'S COMING!!
HE'S KILLED MORE PEOPLE THAN THE PLAGUE.

HE'S CALLED "THE DEATH MASK."

End of Passage 8

Behind the Mask

Passage 9: Behind the Mask

BAM!
BOOM!
AAGHHHH!
KAI
UGH...
POW
THOOM

KA-POW
MY SHOTS KEEP MISSING ...
...EVEN THOUGH HE'S WALKING STRAIGHT TOWARDS ME!
WHY?!

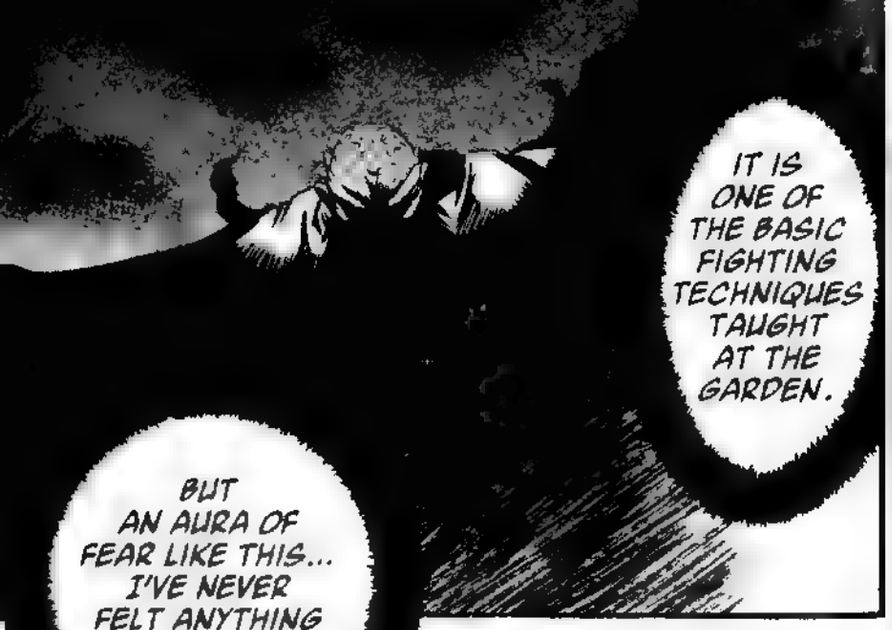
PAT
SHLOOP!
SHUDDER

I CAN'T READ HIS MOVE-MENTS!
AT THIS RATE, HE'LL DEFINITELY KILL US!

LEONEDUS' AIM IS OFF, TOO.

I'M... SHAKING?
WHAT'S WRONG WITH ME?
I DON'T REMEMBER EVER FEELING THIS WAY BEFORE.

.....
IT'S FEAR!
HE'S CREATING ...
...AN AURA OF PURE FEAR!



I WONDER IF DOGA WAS ALSO TERRI-FIED...
...WHEN HE STOOD IN FRONT OF THIS MAN...?
I WONDER HOW HE WAS SEEN...
...BY THE INFAMOUS MATERIA LEADER?

IN THE PAST, WHEN WE WERE FIGHTING ELYSIA*...
...THEY WOULD CURSE US, CALLING US "TESTA-ROTHO"...
...BUT ALL THE WHILE...
...FEAR KEPT THEM FROM FIGHTING BACK, EVEN WHEN THEY OUT-NUMBERED US.

*ELYSIA = ARSENAL TERM FOR "HERETIC"

UNLESS I CAN CONQUER THIS FEAR...
...I'LL NEVER BE ABLE TO DEFEAT THAT MONSTER!

KA
CHAK
...THEN ALLOW ME!
IF YOU'RE NOT GOING TO TAKE THE INITIATIVE ...
AFRAID OF AN OLD MAN?
WHAT'S THE MATTER, COWARDS?
TWO
...!!
TWO
BLAM
BLAM
BLAM
BLAM

KRISTEN!!
!
BAM
BWOOSH
BLAM
CRACK
BLAM

!
HE CUT THE STRING WITH A BULLET?!

SNAP
BLAM

SPURT
...UGH!
SHOVE
BLAM
KA-BOOM
GINORA!
SHIT!
I CAN'T HIT HIM.
DON'T WRITE ME OFF JUST YET.

FWP

ZSH!
SQUEEZE
DAMMIT!
I CAN'T FIRE AT HIM OVER THERE!
SPIN
THAT'S IT...
DASH
YOU IDIOT!
DON'T DO IT, LEO-NEDUS!
HE'LL SHOOT YOU BEFORE YOU CAN REACH HIM!

...BUT THIS IS THE ONLY WAY!
I KNOW...
?!

WHY...
DID HE GIVE UP THAT POSI-TION?!
WHY DIDN'T HE SHOOT ME?!
HUH?
WHY?!
...!
HE FINALLY GAVE ME AN OPENING!
AIM AT WHERE HE'S LANDING!
LEONDUS!
!
FWISH

LEO!
DON'T SHOOT HIM!

ZAA
SSH
...THE MAN WHO HAS LANDED IN FRONT OF ME...
I SEE.
WHEN I LOOK AT HIM AGAIN...
THE FEAR THAT WAS BLURRING MY VISION...
...IS GONE.
...THE MAN WHO DROPPED HIS GUARD TO THE ENEMY...
HE IS NO MONSTER.

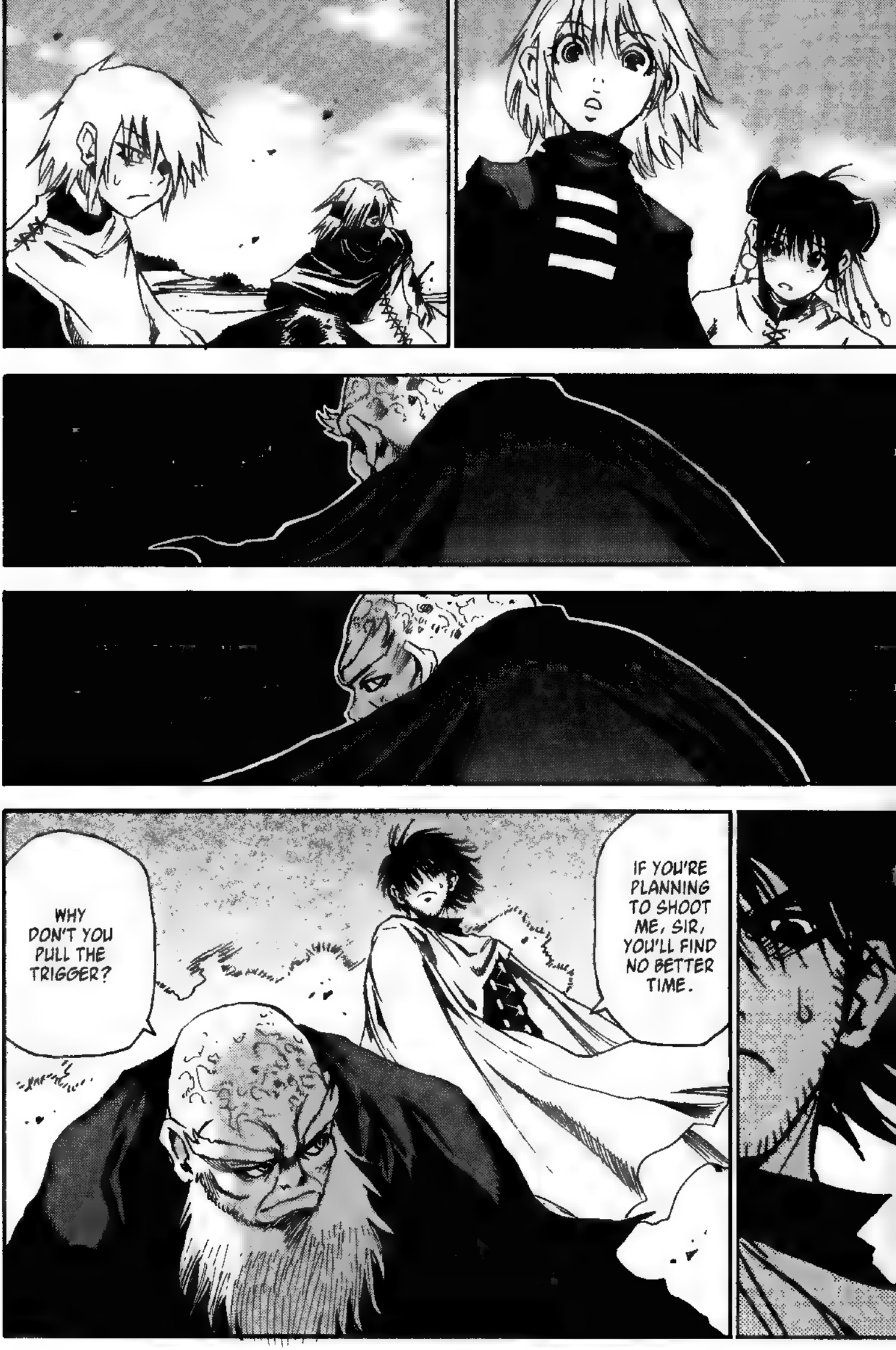
END OF PASSAGE 9

Passage 10: The Pain

YEARS AGO...
...MAESTRO ZAKARO TOLD ME THAT...
...IF YOU HAVE THE TIME TO BE TERRIFIED OF SOMEONE...
...STOP AND ANALYZE HIS STRENGTH.

HOW WOULD YOU DEFEAT HIM?
WHAT ARE HIS WEAK-NESSES?
CAN YOU DEFEAT HIM OR NOT?
IN MOST BATTLES...
...I CAN SEE THE WISDOM IN WHAT ZAKARO TAUGHT...
...BUT PERHAPS THE QUESTION ONE SHOULD BE ASKING IS...
JUST A MOMENT AGO, THIS MAN...
...HAD AN AURA OF LETHAL INTENT...
...SUCH THAT IT SEEMED IMPOSSIBLE THAT I COULD DEFEAT HIM.
BUT... WHAT ABOUT HIM NOW?
..."SHOULD I DEFEAT THIS PERSON?"
"OR SHOULD I LAY DOWN MY ARMS?"

DOES THIS MAN DESERVE TO DIE BY MY HAND?


WHY DON'T YOU PULL THE TRIGGER?
IF YOU'RE PLANNING TO SHOOT ME, SIR, YOU'LL FIND NO BETTER TIME.

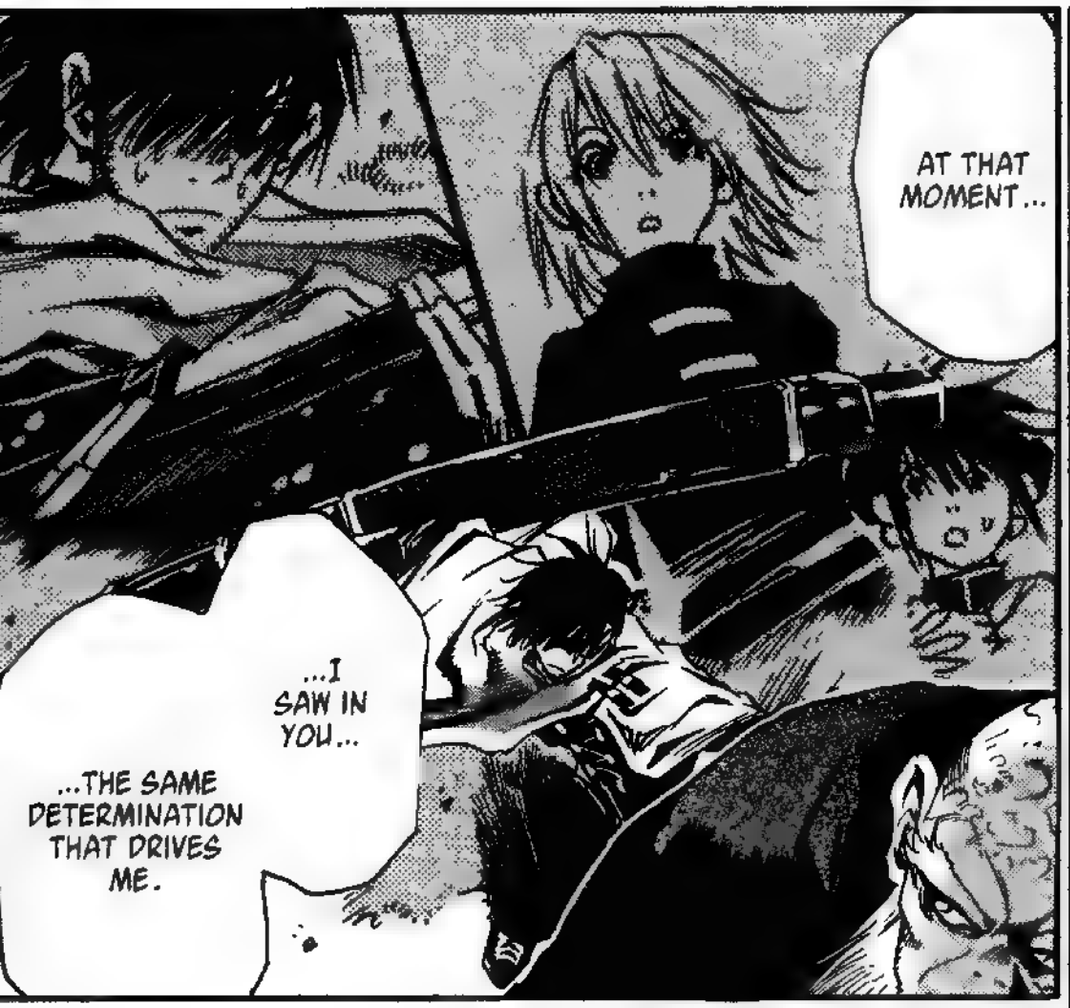
TELL ME...
...WHO THE HELL ARE YOU?
.....
YOU CAN'T AIM AT ME IN BATTLE BECAUSE YOU HAVE FEAR...
...AND WHEN MY GUARD IS DOWN, YOU HESITATE.
HEH HEH...
DON'T ASK SUCH SILLY QUESTIONS.
I AM AN ARSENAL ASSASSIN.
AND YOU, MY FRIEND, ARE MY TARGET.
HOW THEN DO YOU PROPOSE YOU DEFEAT YOUR ENEMY?

...WHY DID YOU STOP FIGHTING?
THEN...
MAKE NO MISTAKE...
...WE ARE STILL IN THE MIDST OF OUR BATTLE.
CHAK
!
LET'S CHAT FOR AWHILE, FIRST.
BUT THERE'S NO HURRY.

...AND I AM DETERMINED TO SEE IT THROUGH...
I AM HERE TODAY ON A MISSION...
EVEN IF THIS JOB SHOULD COST ME MY OWN LIFE, I DON'T CARE.
FOR ME, NOTHING ELSE CAN TAKE THE PLACE OF MY CHILDREN.
...BECAUSE MANY YOUNG LIVES DEPEND UPON MY SUCCESS.
I SAW YOU HESITATE--
YOU MUST HAVE SEEN THE DETERMINATION THAT DRIVES ME.
KNOW YOUR OPPONENT. USE HIS FEAR.
HEH HEH HEH...
IN A WAY ZAKARO IS FOLLOWING MY SCHOOL OF TEACHING RELIGIOUSLY.

DID ARSENAL ...
...SPREAD THE PLAGUE?!
...IF YOU KNOW WHAT I MEAN?
ZAKARO KNEW EXACTLY HOW TO TAKE ADVANTAGE OF MY WEAK POINTS...
MANY OF MY CHILDREN ARE SUFFERING FROM THE PLAGUE RIGHT NOW.
...IN EXCHANGE FOR THE MEDICINE NECESSARY TO TREAT THE CHILDREN.
...TO ONCE MORE DON THE MASK THAT I HAD CAST ASIDE...
I MADE A PACT WITH NEO ARSEN...
IT WAS MORE THAN A FAIR TRADE.
THIS OLD DOTARD'S LIFE FOR THE SAFETY OF THE ORPHANS...

...I MUST SAY THAT YOU IMPRESSED ME.
THAT SAID...


AT THAT MOMENT...
...I SAW IN YOU...
...THE SAME DETERMINATION THAT DRIVES ME.

YOU THOUGHT THAT I STOPPED FIGHTING YOU BACK THEN?
THAT WASN'T EXACTLY THE CASE.

WHATEVER YOUR PASSION IS...
...IT WAS ENOUGH TO MAKE ME HESITATE.
I FELT FEAR.

WHY ARE YOU TELLING ME ALL THIS?
THAT SAID...
...YOU HAVE A 5% CHANCE AT BEST OF GETTING OUT OF THIS ALIVE.
SO LET ME GIVE YOU A SPORTING CHANCE.
I THINK YOU CAN TELL...
...WHO MY REAL ENEMIES ARE.
TMP

.....

EVEN THOUGH I MANAGED TO ESCAPE ARSENAL ONCE BEFORE...
DON'T TELL ME THAT YOU'RE LOSING YOUR RESOLVE?

...AND LIVED SECRETLY IN SETENBURO FOR A TIME, I KNEW THE DAY WOULD COME WHEN THE GARDEN WOULD SEEK ME OUT.
THERE'S NO WAY THEY'LL LET ME WALK AWAY NOW THAT THEY'VE FOUND ME, AGAIN.
...DO YOU UNDER-STAND?

.....
IF WE DON'T SHOOT TODAY...

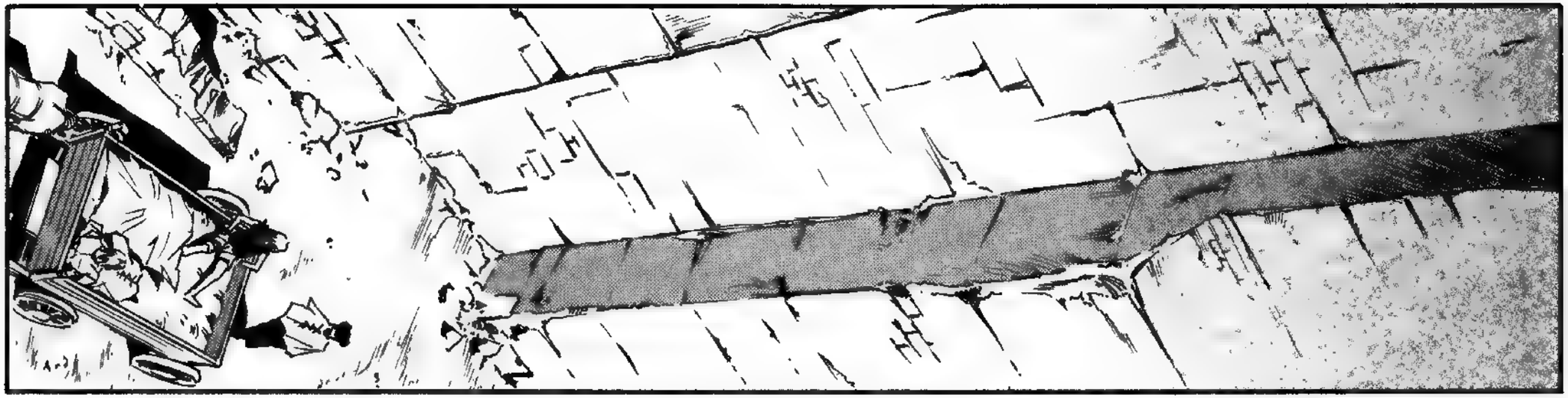
I'LL GIVE YOU A HANDICAP.
THOSE ARE THE GUNS I'LL USE TO KILL YOU.

...WE JUST HAVE TO SHOOT TOMORROW INSTEAD.
A LONG TIME AGO THERE WAS A RECKLESS MAN...
...WHO TRIED TO REFORM ARSENAL FROM WITHIN, ALL BY HIMSELF.
HE KNEW HIS REAL ENEMIES, BUT...
...DUE TO HIS KIND-NESS...
...HE ENDED UP DESTROYING HIM-SELF.
BUT REFORM CAN'T HAPPEN WITHOUT ACTION--
HE NEEDED SOMEONE LIKE ME TO BRING ABOUT THAT CHANGE.
EVEN THOUGH MY HEART KNEW WHAT WAS RIGHT...
...I TOOK THE COWARD'S PATH AND HID BEHIND THIS BLACK MASK.

LEONEDUS...
...REMINDS ME OF THAT MAN.
MAY I...
...ASK YOU A FAVOR?
IF YOU SHOULD SURVIVE THIS DUEL...
...WILL YOU BURY ME IN A PLACE CALLED FORTUNA?
...SURE.
I'LL OWE YOU ONE.
HEH HEH... I CAN'T SHOW THIS KIND OF FACE TO MY CHILDREN.
ARE YOU READY?
LEAP

ドン

POW!



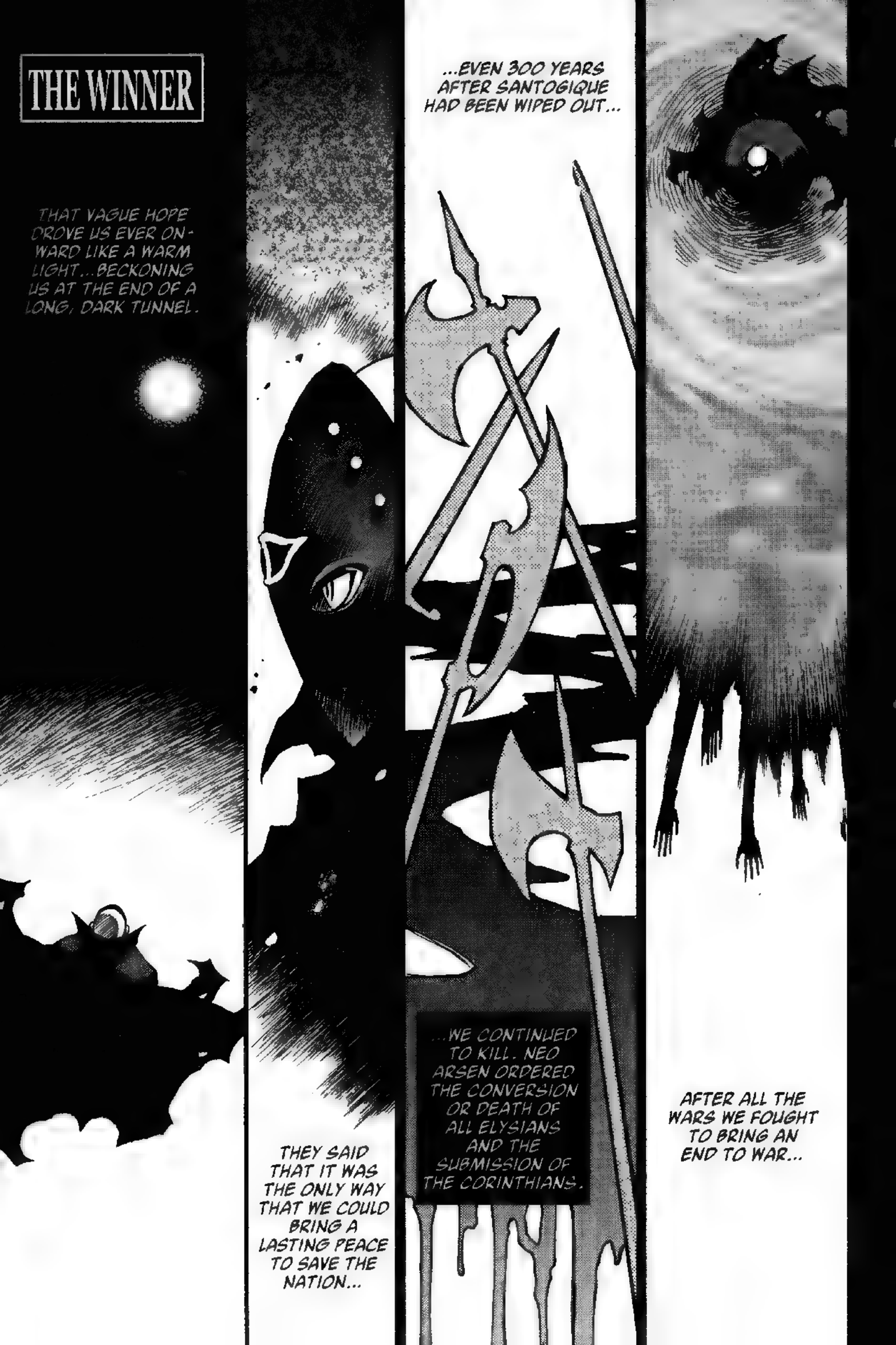
...THIS GUY WASN'T AS SCARY AS THEY SAID.
IN THE END...
.....
...THIS MAN WAS TALKING ABOUT...
BUT THE CHILDREN...
YEAH...
WE'RE THE ONES WHO SURVIVED.
CAPRIA, WHY DO YOU LOOK DE-PRESSED?
YOU... THINK SO? I GUESS YOU'RE RIGHT.
I DON'T THINK HE WOULD HAVE LET HIMSELF DIE LIKE THAT, OTHER-WISE.
I'M SURE ZAKARO GAVE IT TO HIM WHEN HE ACCEPTED THE MISSION.
THE MEDI-CINE? I'M SURE IT'S FINE.
KRISTIN AND I GOT QUITE A BEATING FROM HIM OURSELVES...
...MUST HAVE HIT LEONEDUS HARDEST OF ALL...
...BUT THE WAY THINGS TURNED OUT...

...BUT TO SHOOT HIM?
DID I REALLY HAVE NO CHOICE...
GRAB

LUCY!!
IT...IT HURTS...
OF COURSE IT DOES!
YOU FOOL! WHAT THE HELL ARE YOU DOING?!
!
STAB

YOU'RE THE FOOL...
...FOR DOING SUCH A STUPID THING TO YOUR-SELF!
THIS IS SOME-THING...
...ONLY LIARS WOULD DO!

End of Passage 10

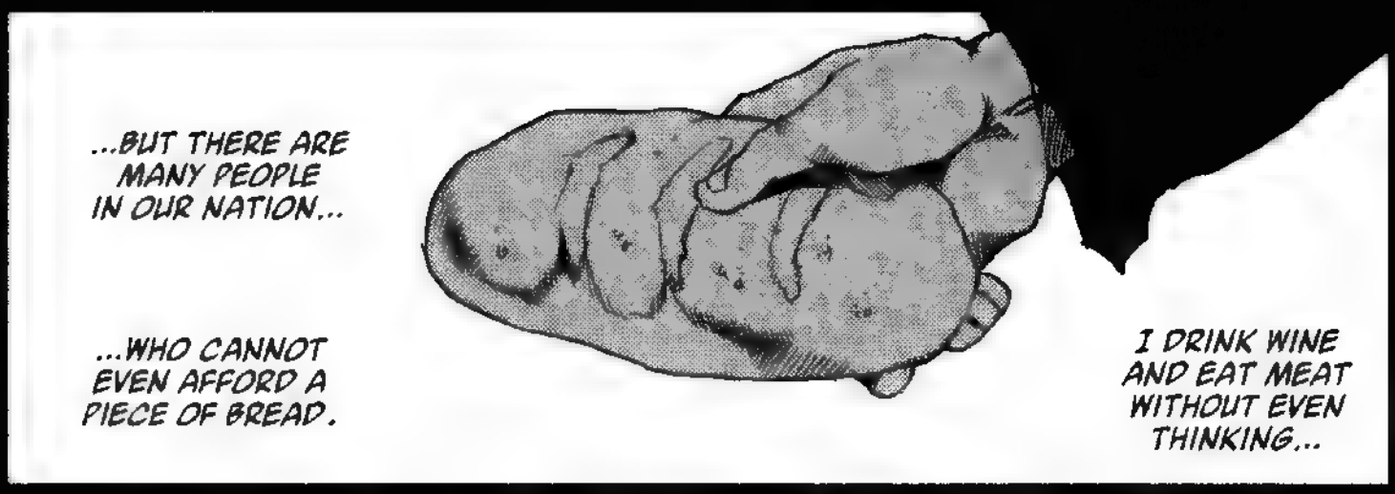

THE WINNER
THAT VAGUE HOPE DROVE US EVER ONWARD LIKE A WARM LIGHT...BECKONING US AT THE END OF A LONG, DARK TUNNEL.
...EVEN 300 YEARS AFTER SANTOGIQUE HAD BEEN WIPED OUT...
AFTER ALL THE WARS WE FOUGHT TO BRING AN END TO WAR...
...WE CONTINUED TO KILL. NEO ARSEN ORDERED THE CONVERSION OR DEATH OF ALL ELYSIANS AND THE SUBMISSION OF THE CORINTHIANS.
THEY SAID THAT IT WAS THE ONLY WAY THAT WE COULD BRING A LASTING PEACE TO SAVE THE NATION...

WHO ARE THOSE PEOPLE I'M FIGHTING AGAINST?
ELYSIA HERETICS? MISLED CORINTHIANS?
NO. THEY WERE JUST CHILDREN.
'N ARSENA. = PROPAGANDA

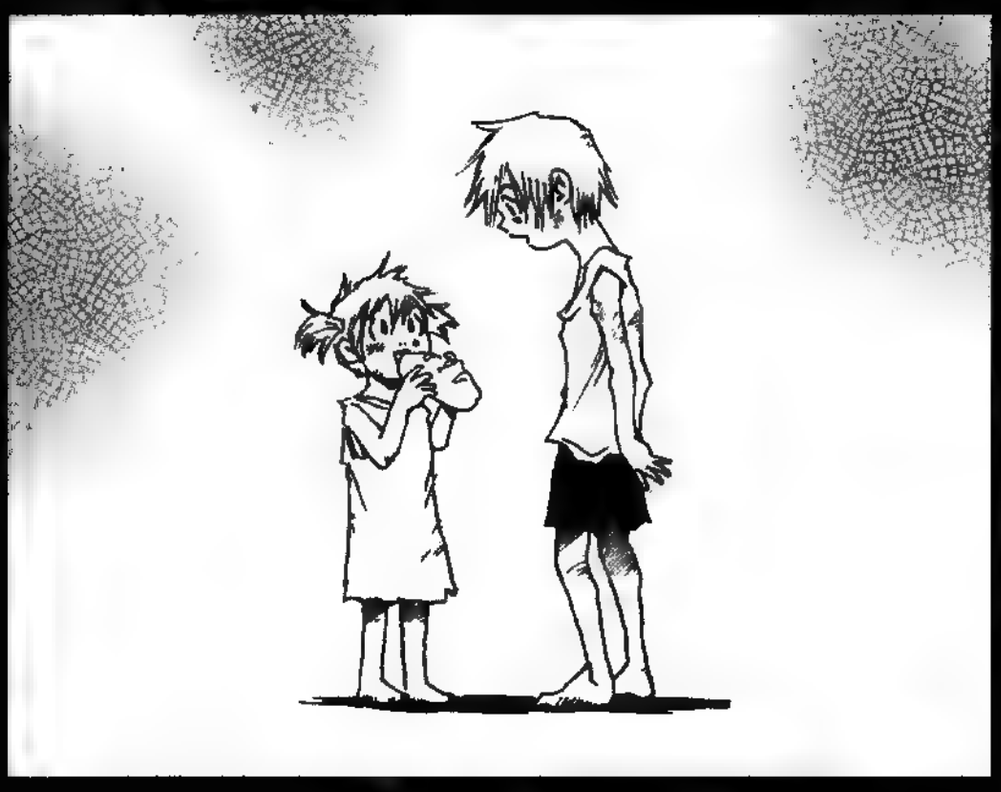
PASSAGE 11: THE WINNER

I SEE NO NEED TO EXPAND OUR FORCES ANY MORE.
RIGHT NOW THE ARSENAL MILITARY IS EVERY BIT AS POWERFUL AS THAT OF THE CORINTHIANS.
EXPAND THE GARDEN?
...WE CAN END THIS WAR QUICKLY AND BRING THE WORD TO THOSE POOR PEOPLE.
BY SURPASSING THEIR POWER...
AN ARMY OF COMPARABLE STRENGTH IS AN INVITATION FOR MORE BLOODSHED!
IN THAT WAY, WE CERTAINLY HAVE AN EDGE OVER OUR CORINTHIAN NEIGHBORS WITH THEIR HUGE DISPARITY BETWEEN RICH AND POOR.
...THE HAND THAT GIVES OUT ALMS TO THOSE LESS FORTUNATE CAN BE JUST AS POWERFUL AS THE HAND WIELDING A SWORD.
IN SPREADING THE WORD...
SURELY EVEN YOU CANNOT ARGUE THAT, FATHER GARRINCHA?
HEE HEE
SURELY...
...I AGREE WITH FATHER DALGLISH'S OPINION TO A CERTAIN EXTENT THAT FORCE IS NECESSARY.
OR IS THERE TRUTH TO THE RUMORS THAT YOU SYMPATHIZE WITH THE CORINTHIANS?

...RELIANCE ON THE SWORD TO REACH OUR ENDS IS A SIGN OF WEAKNESS.
PLEASE REMEMBER THAT...
..."FORCE" AND "VIOLENCE" ARE TWO DIFFERENT THINGS.
THAT SAID ...
...FATHER DALGLISH'S ...
...TO ITS CURRENT SITUATION.
...THAT HAD BROUGHT OUR WORLD...
BUT IT WAS VIOLENCE...
TUMBLE
SHARE

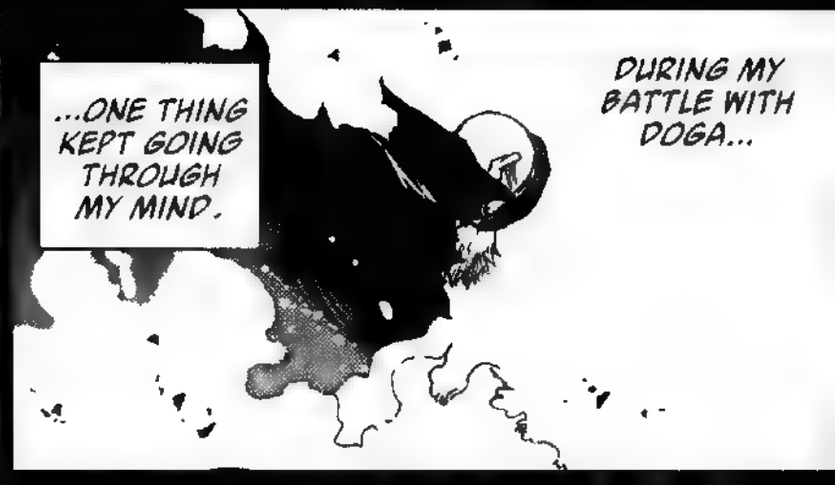

...BUT THERE ARE MANY PEOPLE IN OUR NATION...
...WHO CANNOT EVEN AFFORD A PIECE OF BREAD.
I DRINK WINE AND EAT MEAT WITHOUT EVEN THINKING...

...SO THAT WE CAN ALSO HELP THE POOR?
ISN'T THE REASON THAT WE FIGHT...

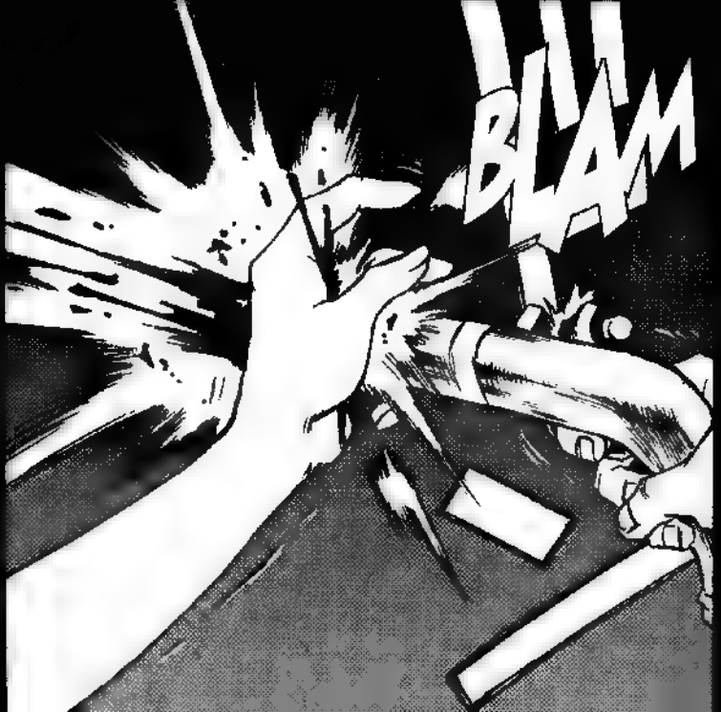


I WANT YOU TO KILL A MAN NAMED DOGA.
WE BELIEVE THAT HE'S THE RING-LEADER OF A NEW REBEL ORGANIZA-TION...
...A DANGEROUS TERRORIST SECT CALLED "MATERIA."
I HAD SEEN THE RESULTS OF THIS DOGA'S HANDI-WORK--
INQUISITOR ORUGIN LAY ON THE GROUND, CHARRED BEYOND RECOGNITION.
HE HAD BEEN A CRUSADER IN THE FRONT-LINES...
...IN SUPPORTING DALGLISH'S POLICY.
BUT DOGA WAS NOT A TYPE OF GUY WHO WOULD KILL INDISCRIMI-NATELY
HE ONLY KILLED HIS ENEMIES.

THE WAY HE LOOKED AT ME, NOT WITH HATRED, BUT WITH PITY...


...ONE THING KEPT GOING THROUGH MY MIND.
DURING MY BATTLE WITH DOGA...

GASP!
GRAB


BLAM

...REMINDED ME OF SOMEONE.
DOGA...

AT THAT MOMENT, I HESI-TATED...
...AND I KNEW THEN...
...THE STRENGTH THAT I WAS UP AGAINST...
...AND WHY I COULD NEVER WIN THIS BATTLE.

I WAS FIGHTING AGAINST AN ENEMY. BUT DOGA...
...DOGA WAS FIGHTING FOR WHAT HE BELIEVED IN..
IN THE END, WE ARE ONLY AS STRONG AS OUR CONVICTION...

...AND HERE WAS A MAN WITH THE CONVICTION OF A SAINT.
FOOM

I SAY WE JUST BURY HIM HERE AND SAVE OURSELVES THE TROUBLE.
HOW SENTIMENTAL.
YEAH.
YOU'RE REALLY GOING TO RISK DRAGGING THE OLD MAN'S CORPSE BACK TO THE CITY?
.....
I HATE LIARS!
NO! HE PROMISED HIM!
I G-GUESS YOU'RE RIGHT...
Y-YEAH...
ER...

...THAT'S RIGHT... THIS PLACE WAS...
SLISH
SLISH
LEONEDUS.
WE'LL WAIT FOR YOU HERE.
COME GET US WHEN YOU'RE DONE.
SURE.

DOGA?!
GWOOSH

WHACK

SPLASH
SPLOOSH
SPLISH
SPLISH

YOU SPARED HIM?
PERHAPS IT WAS HE WHO SPARED US.
?
JUST BEFORE YOU GRABBED HIS GUNS...
...HE HAD THE CHANCE TO SHOOT US BOTH...
...BUT... INSTEAD, HE HESITATED.
VERY FEW GARDEN ASSASSINS CARRY GUNS. THEY'RE SUCH LOUD WEAPONS...
...IF YOU MISS ONCE YOU MIGHT NOT GET A SECOND CHANCE.
THOSE THAT DO CARRY GUNS EITHER BELIEVE THAT THEY CAN MAKE UP FOR THE LACK OF STEALTH WITH SHEER POWER...
...OR THEY TAKE ON THE HANDICAP SO THAT THEY'LL NEVER FORGET THE STAKES THEY'RE PLAYING WITH.
AS FOR THIS MAN...
...I'M NOT SURE WHICH GROUP HE FALLS INTO...
...BUT I HAVE THE FEELING IT'S THE LATTER.
SO--

WHERE ARE YOU GOING, MARTINA?
TO CHECK UP ON HIM.
DON'T WORRY. IN HIS CONDITION, THERE SHOULDN'T BE ANY DANGER.
WAIT. I'M COMING WITH YOU.
YOU'RE PRETTY BADLY INJURED YOURSELF.
AREN'T YOU, TOO?

THOSE GUYS...
...PUT UP QUITE A FIGHT.
COMPARED TO THE BATTLE WE FOUGHT AGAINST TAROTH MILA...
...IT WAS NOTHING.

MARTINA!
SHUT
NO-WHERE IN PARTI-CULAR.
THANKS FOR HELPING ME LAST NIGHT.
WELL, YOU SHOULD STILL REST FOR AT LEAST A DAY OR TWO.
WAIT! WHERE ARE YOU GOING?
AFTER THAT ATTACK LAST NIGHT, IT'S CLEAR THAT WE'RE NOT GOING TO BE ABLE TO KEEP RUNNING FROM THE ENEMY.
IF THE DANGER'S GOING TO GO AWAY...
...WE'RE GOING TO HAVE TO DO SOMETHING ABOUT IT OUR-SELVES.
I HAVE TO HURRY!

WILL HE BE BACK SOON?
WHAT HAPPENED TO FATHER MILA?
HEY, DOCTOR!
UH...
YEAH...
I DON'T KNOW HOW THEY GOT THERE...
...BUT THIS MORNING THERE WERE BAGS OF MEDICINE SITTING ON FATHER MILA'S DESK.
FORTUNA

IT CAN ONLY HAVE COME FROM ONE SOURCE.
ARSENAL.
AND NOW, FATHER MILA HAS DISAPPEARED, WHICH MUST MEAN...
LEONEDUS!
CADRIA!
SOCRATES!
FATHER SOCRATES!

I'M GLAD TO SEE YOU'RE SAFE.
HUH?
...?

.....
I SEE...
NOW IT ALL BECOMES CLEAR.
FATHER...?
HE'S NOT MOVING.
IS HE DEAD?
NO!
HEY, DOCTOR...
HIS BODY IS COLD.
THAT'S OUR FATHER...
FATHER...
ARE YOU SLEEPING?
FATHER MILA...
WHAT'S WRONG?
PLEASE SAY SOME-THING, FATHER.
WE DON'T WANT YOU TO DIE!
FATHER MILA!
UH...
NO...
DADDY...
SOB...
UWAAAH!
WAH!
WAAAAAAH!
WAAAAH!

.....
OH, FATHER ...
WAAAH!
HIC... SOB...
FATHER ...
LISTEN, EVERY-ONE!
IT'S... IT'S MY...
FIGHTING TO SAVE YOU ALL!
...FIGHTING FOR A CURE TO THE PLAGUE!
FATHER GAVE HIS LIFE...
...BUT HE WON THE BATTLE!
HE'S GONE NOW...

End of Passage 11

Passage 12: The Trap

.....

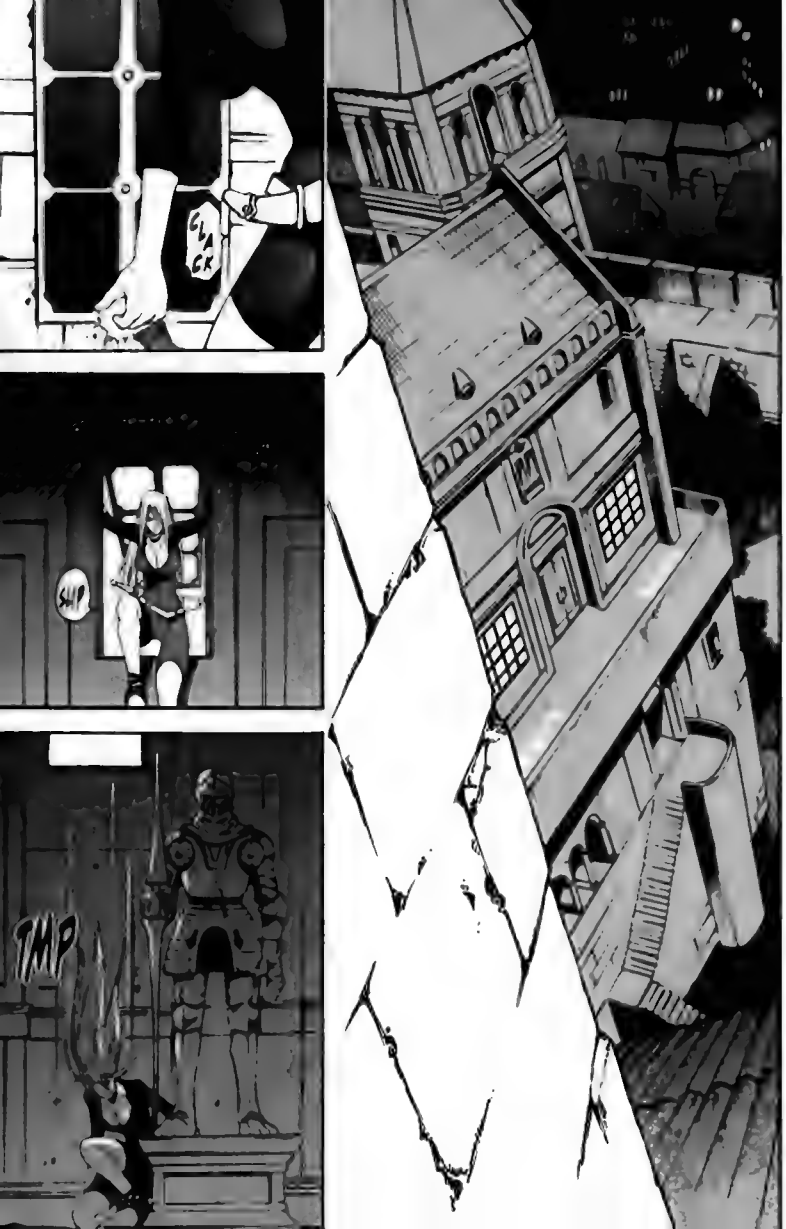
SPLASH

HERE. LET ME PUT THEM ON YOUR HAIR.
THIS?
... PRETTY ...
.....
THEY LOOK GOOD ON YOU!
PANT
...AM I EVER GOING TO GET BETTER ...?
ROTHO...

FATHER BROUGHT US ALL KINDS OF SPECIAL MEDICINE.
OF COURSE YOU'RE GOING TO GET WELL!
GASP!
THIS ISN'T GOOD.
CREAK

I WANT TO HELP THEM.
I WANT TO BE THEIR STRENGTH.
I CAN'T SHOW...
...THIS FACE TO ALL THE CHILDREN.
I CAN'T CONTINUE DEPENDING ON OTHER PEOPLE.
I HAVE TO BE STRONGER.

LEAP!
SHOOP
IMP
IMP
IMP
IMP
IMP


CLACK
SHIP
TMP

WHY AREN'T THERE ANY GUARDS?
THIS IS STRANGE.

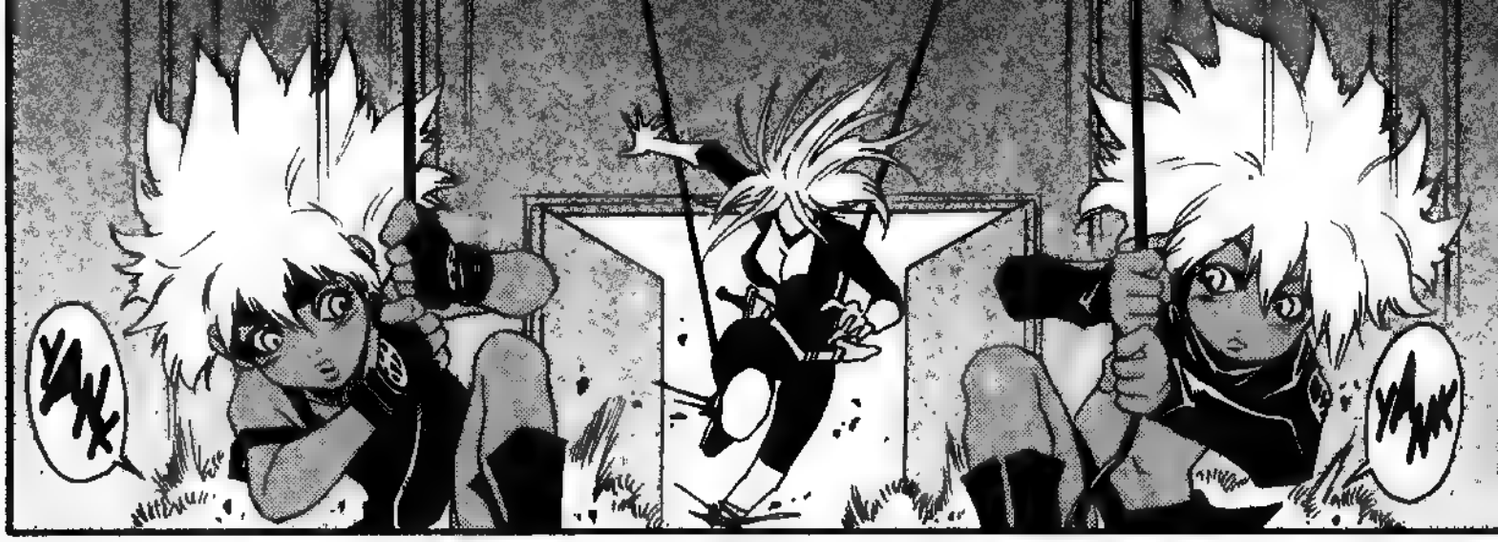
THERE'S NOT A SINGLE SENTRY GUARDING THE CARDINAL'S BEDROOM...
HOW ODD...

DRIP

SWISH
SWISH
THNK
THNK
I WON! I WON!
HEE HEE
WHAAAT?
AS IF! MINE GOT THERE FIRST!
HEE HEE
THEN LET'S ASK THAT LADY.
'KAY!
HEE!
HELLO?
HEE HEE

HEY, SIS!
WHICH KNIFE DO YOU THINK GOT THERE FIRST?
TEE HEE!
TEE HEE!

BAM
TIME FOR ROUND TWO.
TWIRL
TWIRL
TWIRL
AW, SHE RAN AWAY.
SHWISH
SHWISH
!!
SHUNK
FWIP
FWIP


YAK
YAWK

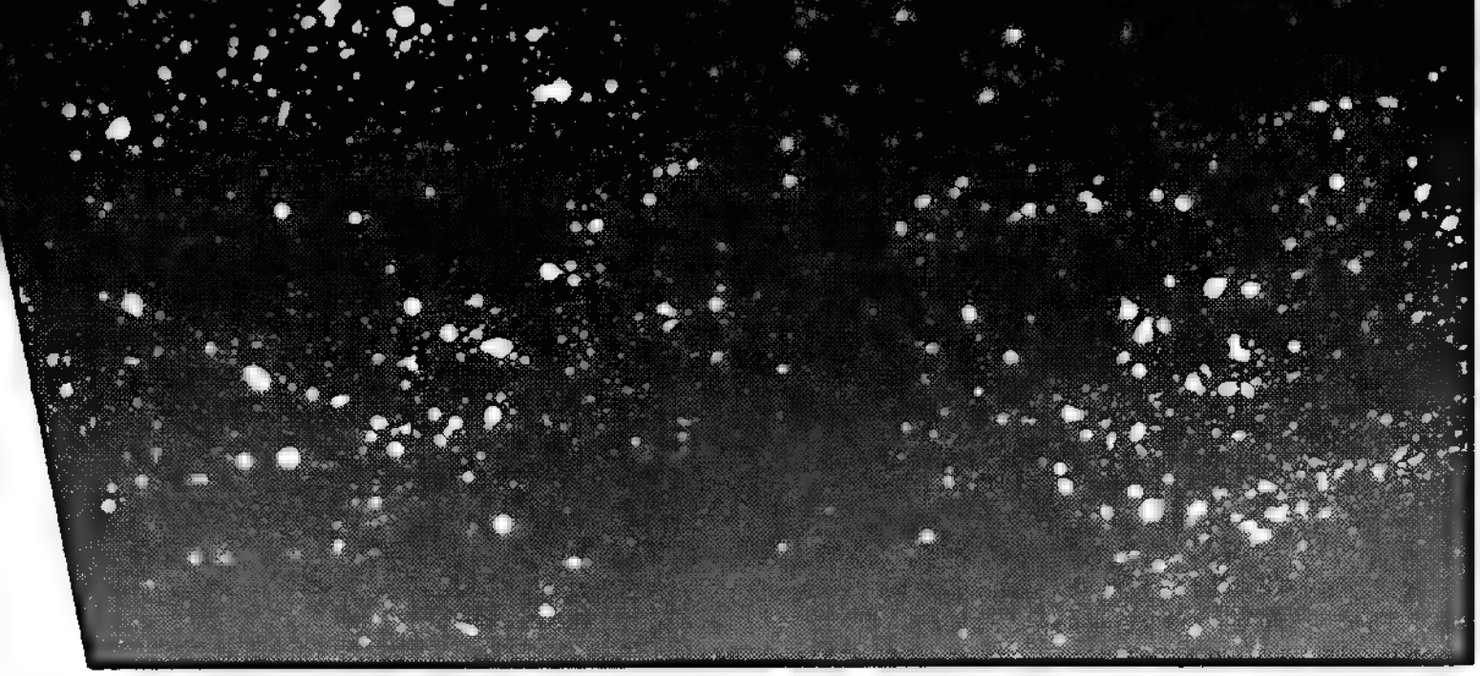
GOOSH
SHED
CLAFFER
SHWOOP

HEY.
WHO WAS FASTER THIS TIME?
GUSH
URGH!
SQUEEZE
SQUEEZE
SQUEEZE
OR ME?
!
WAS IT ME?

?
TH...
THERE.
YOU HAVE WHAT YOU WANTED.
CA...
CARDINAL GIJA!
THANK YOU VERY MUCH...
...CARDINAL.
I...I'M SORRY, MARTINA.
I HAD NO CHOICE. IF I DIDN'T HELP THEM, THEY'D KILL ME...
CRICK
CRICK
SNAP!
GUH!
...LY?
...AND MY FAMI--

SORRY ABOUT THE ROUGH GREETING.
SO, YOU'RE MARTINA ...
IT'S SO NICE TO FINALLY MEET YOU.
VENUS AND SERENA HERE CAN PLAY A LITTLE ROUGH. KIDS THESE DAYS.
BUT AS LONG AS YOU'RE HANGING AROUND...
TWITCH
THITCH
I MIGHT AS WELL BEGIN MY INQUISI-TION.
A BONUS ROUND?
YUP!
I'M SURE THAT NEITHER OF US WANTS TO DRAG IT ON TOO LONG...
FWISH
...SO JUST GIVE ME YOUR FULL COOPERATION AND IT'LL BE OVER BEFORE YOU KNOW IT.

ARE YOU READY?



SNUGGLE
SNUGGLE

BRRR!
IT SURE IS COLD.

YEAH...
HUH?
CAN YOU SEE THEM?

POKE
WHOA... SO MANY STARS. IT'S PRETTY.

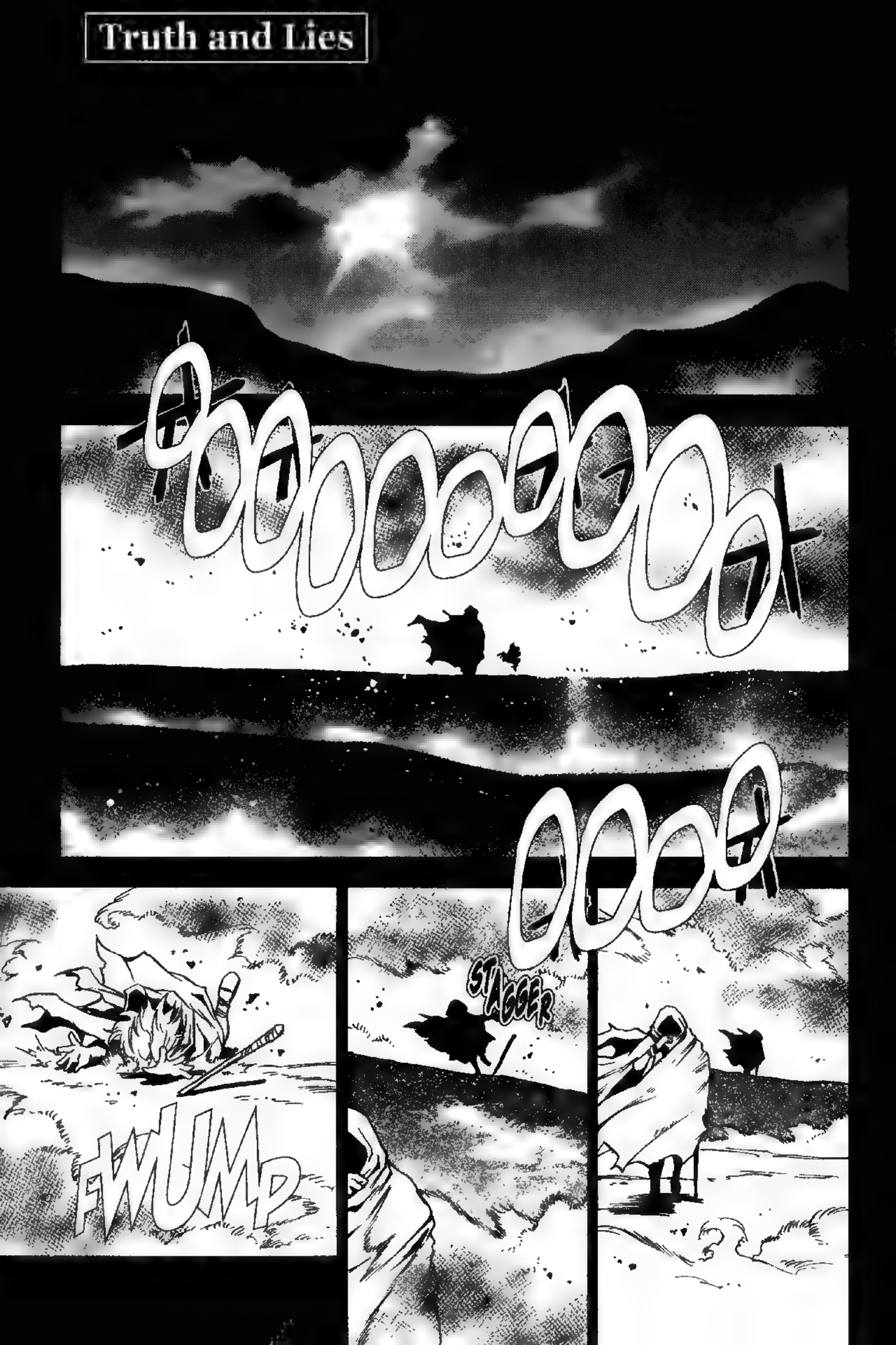
I WONDER WHY I'M HIDING HERE...
WHAT AM I DOING?
GASP
THAT'S WHAT I WAS REMEMBERING.
BUT THE LAST TIME I SAW THE NIGHT SKY, IT WAS FILLED WITH STARS, TOO.
NO.
I'VE BEEN BAD.
I LIED TWICE TODAY.
FIRST ABOUT FATHER MILA...
...AND THEN I TOLD A CHILD THAT HE'D BE CURED WHEN HE MIGHT NEVER GET BETTER.
I WOULDN'T CALL THOSE LIES.
THE VARYING GOSPELS OF SAINT ARSEN AND SAINT CORINTHIA...
...HAVE LED TO COUNTLESS DEATHS.
WOULD YOU CALL THEIR TEACHINGS "LIES"?

AT THE VERY LEAST, YOU TOOK AWAY HIS FEAR.
THANKS TO YOU, THAT CHILD MIGHT NOW HAVE THE STRENGTH TO LIVE.
YOUR WORDS ALSO GAVE COMFORT.
THEIR WORDS HAVE GIVEN COMFORT TO COUNTLESS PEOPLE. THEY WERE SAID IN KINDNESS AND MERCY.
THAT'S NOT HOW I SEE IT.
WHAT ABOUT THAT?
BACK WHEN WE FIRST MET AND YOU SAID YOU WOULDN'T FOLLOW ME--YOU BROKE YOUR PROMISE.
...SAY THE SAME ABOUT MY ACTIONS.
I WISH I COULD...
BUT THANKS TO THAT LIE, ALL OF OUR LIVES WERE SAVED.
I SEE...
A "GROWN-UP LIE."
THAT... THAT WAS SO WE COULD FOLLOW YOU TO THE MATERIA CAMP.
...IT WAS... A GOOD LIE...
I'M SURE...

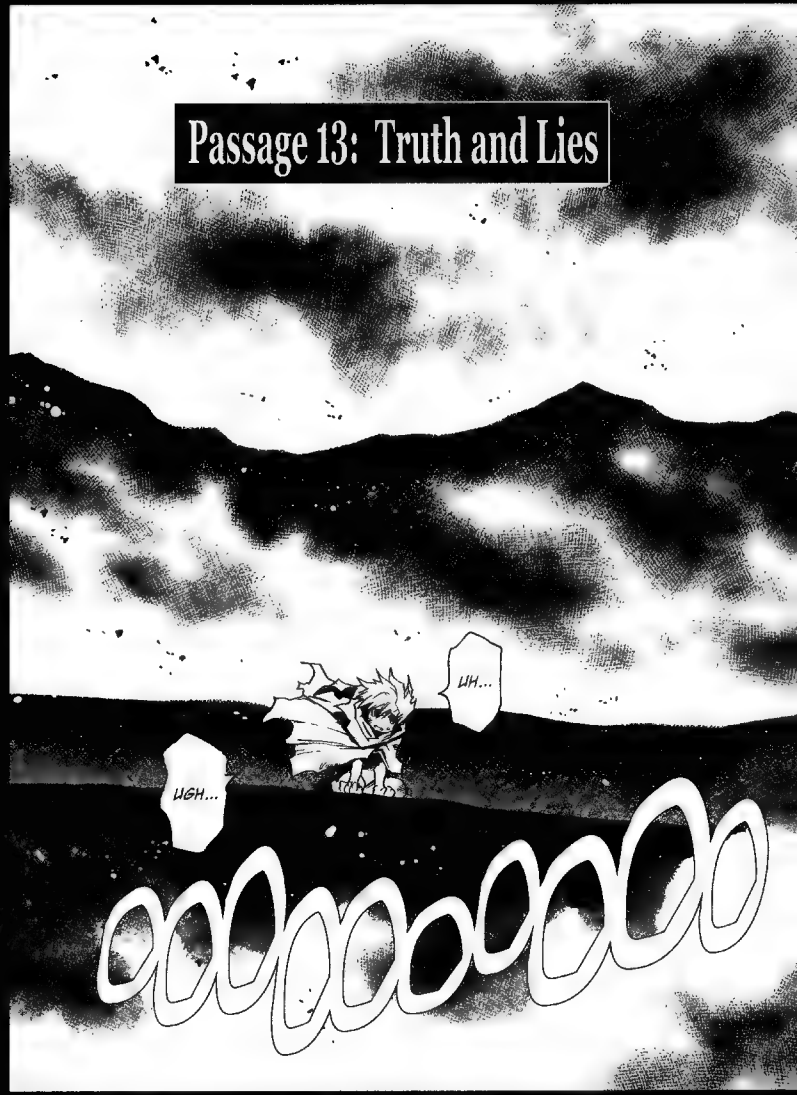
HIS "WOMAN OF DESTINY."
I WONDER ...
...WHY ...?
.....
I WONDER WHY...
...I'M CRYING?
"SOMEONE LIKE HIM IS BOUND TO FIND HIS KINDRED SPIRIT."
"SHE'LL LOOK UP AND SEE THE SAME STARS AS HIM."

END OF PASSAGE 12

Truth and Lies



Passage 13: Truth and Lies



STAGGER
UH...
SNIFFLE
UNGH...
UWAAAAH!
AH..
AH..
SNIF
NIC
SNIF
QUIVER...

LUCICC!...
DOES YOUR KNEE STILL HURT?
UH-UH.
MUNCH
OH...
SLICE
CAN YOU NOW? THAT'S GOOD TO HEAR.
BUT LET'S JUST REST HERE FOR TONIGHT, OKAY?
I CAN KEEP WALKING.
?
IT DOESN'T HURT.
I'M FINE!

WOOO
THIS IS TERRIBLE ...

A TOTAL MASSACRE ...
MAYBE IF I HAD GOTTEN HERE A LITTLE SOONER...
?
...LUCICCI?
!

DON'T WORRY.
I'M ON YOUR SIDE.
HUFF
HUFF
HUFF
HUFF
...MY CHILD...
...PLEASE HELP...
...MY...
CLATTER
NO PROB-LEM.
I'LL TAKE CARE OF YOUR BOY.
YOU JUST HANG IN THERE, TOO!
HE'S BURNING UP.
OH, NO!

.....
POIT
LUCICCI!
PLEASE GO LOOK FOR SOME WATER.
OKAY!
RUSTLE
"LUCICCI."
"DRINK THIS ONLY WHEN YOU REALLY NEED IT."
SLOOSH

SHOOSH

I'M SORRY...
EVEN THOUGH I PROMISED ...
...THAT I'D SAVE HIS LIFE...
I...
I LIED TO YOU...
YOU DID ALL YOU COULD!
THAT'S NOT TRUE!
YOU DIDN'T LIE!

AAAAH!
WAAAAGH!
HF
HF
PLOMP
WOBBLE
WOBBLE

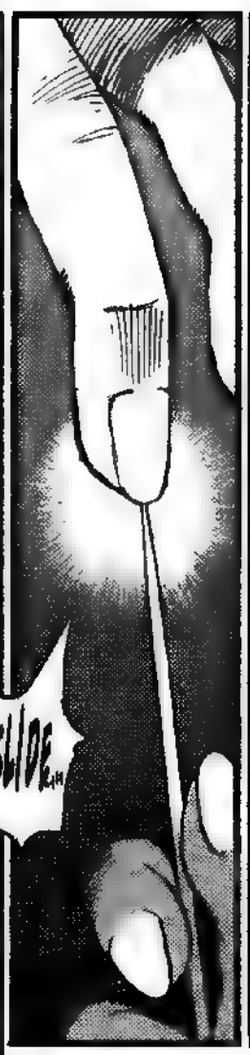
PLIP
PLIP
...
UH...
...
UGH
...
...UH
...
UH...
HUH
HUH
...
.....

HEH HEH HEH. MY DEAR MARTINA.
SOMEHOW YOU STILL MANAGE TO SMILE AT A TIME LIKE THIS.
THAT'S VERY STRONG OF YOU... I'M IMPRESSED!

SILLY LADY! C'MON AND TALK, WHY DON'T'CHA?
WE DON'T WANNA MESS UP YOUR PRETTY BODY MORE THAN WE HAVE TO.
SHE SURE IS STUBBORN, HUH?

WE WOULDN'T WANT TO SPOIL THE FUN.
OF COURSE NOT!
...BUT DON'T KILL HER.
VENUS! SERENA! TAKE THAT SMILE OFF HER FACE...

!
SLIDE...



WHERE IS IT, HUH?
TELL US WHERE YOU HID THE SANTOGIQUE RELIC, PRETTY PLEASE?

TWITCH
WHERE IS IT?
STAB
URGH!
AH!
ARGH!
WHERE IS IT?
STAB
HA

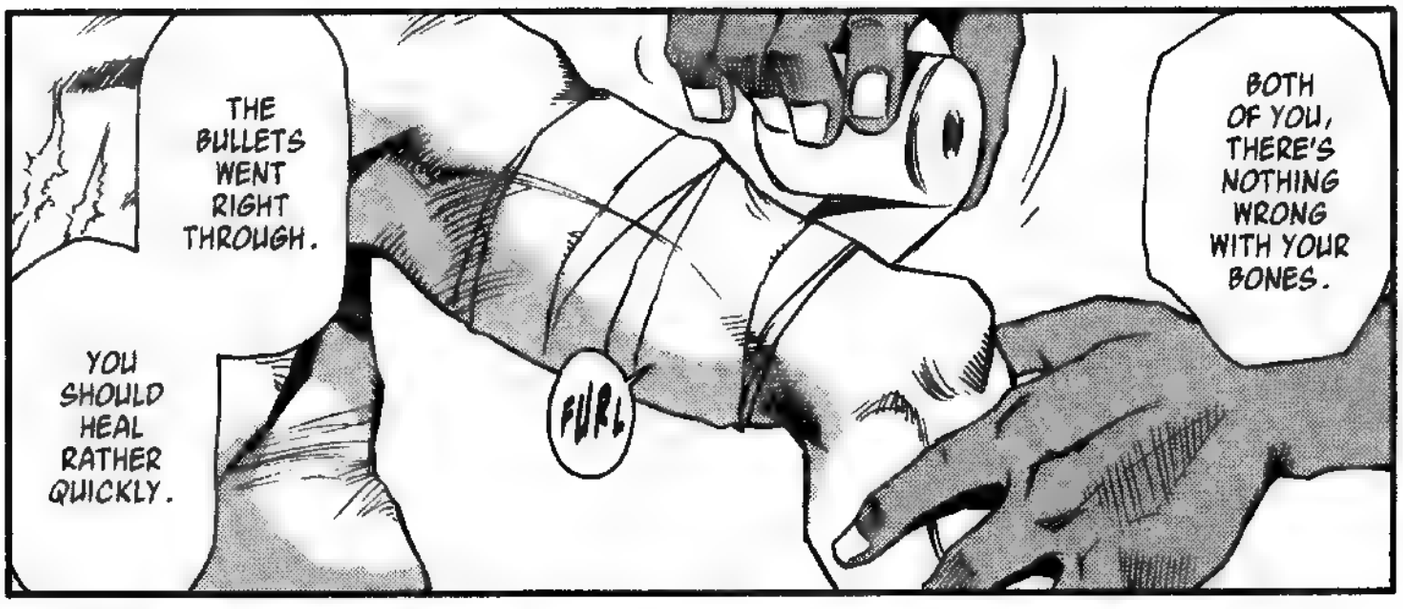
...TO USE CHILDREN LIKE THIS.
HOW SICK...

PLUCK THEM OUT, GIRLS.
KEEP TORTURING THIS BITCH UNTIL HER MIND IS BROKEN!
SUCH A FEISTY WOMAN. YOU'VE STILL GOT SOME SPARK IN THOSE PRETTY EYES OF YOURS.

.....
CAPRIA...
CAPRIA, ARE YOU THERE?
YES?
WHAT IS IT?
CAN YOU STAY WITH ME UNTIL I FALL ASLEEP?
PANT
OF COURSE!

...I FEEL CALM.
WHEN I'M TAKING CARE OF THESE CHILDREN ...
EVEN THOUGH THEY'RE THE ONES BEING TREATED...
...I FEEL AS IF I'M BEING HEALED AS WELL.
I'M GOING TO CHECK UP ON THE OTHERS.
CAPRIA.
YES?
YOU SHOULD GET SOME REST, TOO.
CREAK...

GLARE
GLARE
GLARE
GLARE


THE BULLETS WENT RIGHT THROUGH.
YOU SHOULD HEAL RATHER QUICKLY.
FURL
BOTH OF YOU, THERE'S NOTHING WRONG WITH YOUR BONES.

I SEE...

WHOEVER GAVE YOU FIRST AID DID AN EXCELLENT JOB.
OH. THAT WAS CAPRIA.

TWITCH
GLARE
WITH ALL THAT YOU'RE DOING, THE LAST THING YOU NEEDED WAS TWO EXTRA PATIENTS.
SORRY, SOCRATES.
BOTH OF YOU...
...CUT IT OUT.

.....
.....
MAR...
TINA...

.....
GASCOIGNE? IS THAT YOU?

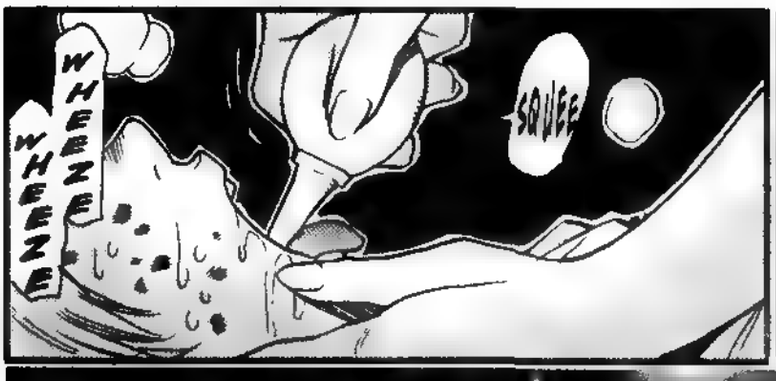
I'M GLAD YOU'RE STILL SAFE...
...LEONELLS.
GASP!
WHAT BRINGS YOU HERE?
DOGA!!

WHAT?!

End of Passage 13

Passage 14: Each Battle

KOFF
KOFF
WHEEZE...
WHEEZE...

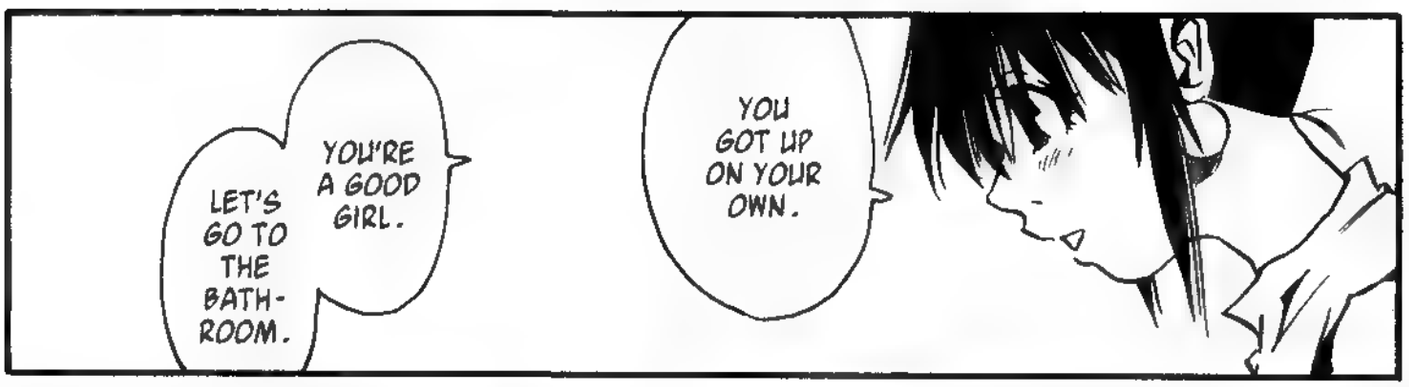

WHEEZE
WHEEZE
SQUEE

GEOH
FF
GASH

I KNOW IT'S HARD.
BUT DON'T WORRY.
YOU'LL FEEL BETTER SOON.
IF I GIVE HIM MORE WATER HE JUST THROWS IT BACK UP.
IT'S HARD TO GET OUT ALL THE PHLEGM.
HE'S SO DEHYDRATED, IT'S CAKED TO THE BACK OF HIS THROAT.

SQUEEZE
OH! THAT'S RIGHT.
I'M RIGHT HERE.
I WANT TO HELP HIM!
PANT
HUFF
WHEEZE...
HUFF
CAPRIA...
...SISTER...
SURE.
HUH?
LALAS.
COULD YOU GIVE ME A HAND?
ONCE YOU'RE DONE WITH THAT, BRING HOT WATER TO THE NURSING ROOM.
?
LALAS, PLEASE GATHER UP AS MANY STRIPS OF CLOTH THAT YOU CAN FIND AND BRING THEM TO ME.
...SURE.
NO PROBLEM!
LUCICCI, I NEED YOU TO BOIL A POT OF WATER FOR ME.

CAPRIA...
I HAVE TO GO PEE...


YOU GOT UP ON YOUR OWN.
YOU'RE A GOOD GIRL.
LET'S GO TO THE BATH-ROOM.

...
...
...
...
...

I SAW DOGA.
!
WHEN?
WHERE WAS HE?
JUST NOW. RIGHT OUTSIDE OF THE CHURCH.
NO WONDER YOU LOOK SO TENSE.
DID YOU GUYS FIGHT?
NO.
IT WAS SOMEONE I HAD MET BEFORE...
?

DOGA!!

HELLO, LUCICCI.
I'M GLAD YOU'RE DOING WELL.
YEAH.
GRANDPA IS DOING FINE AS WELL.
BUT... MANY PEOPLE WERE KILLED.
WHERE'S FATHER GAR-RINCHA?
.....
AND TARTOTH MILA...?

...I SEE...
THERE ARE MANY THINGS I WANT TO ASK YOU...
...BUT WE'RE RUNNING OUT OF TIME.
CAN I BORROW YOU, LEONEDUS?
LUCICCI, YOU STAY HERE.
WHY?!
I'M COMING WITH YOU GUYS!
NO, NOT THIS TIME.

ALTHOUGH I'M THE FOUNDER OF MATERIA...
...I'M NOT THE LEADER.
MY REAL NAME IS DOGA.
GASCOIGNE IS THE NAME I USE WHEN I NEED TO ACT ANONY-MOUSLY.
THE HEAD OF MATERIA IS A WOMAN NAMED MARTINA.
SHE'S LUCICCI'S MOTHER.
YOU DIDN'T KNOW ABOUT THAT, DID YOU?
...ALREADY KNEW THAT THE LEADER OF MATERIA WAS A FEMALE.
APPARENTLY A FEW OF THE ARSENAL OFFICIALS ...

IS IT SAFE FOR YOU TO GIVE ME ALL THIS INFORMATION?
THAT'S WHY I'VE DECIDED TO TELL YOU EVERY-THING.
...COULD HAVE GRAVE CONSEQUENCES FOR YOU AND YOUR FRIENDS.
...BUT WHAT'S ABOUT TO HAPPEN...
...I DIDN'T PLAN ON TELLING YOU ALL THIS UNTIL THINGS CALMED DOWN...
.....
I SHOULD PROBABLY START FROM THE BEGIN-NING.
THIS FORTRESS, SETENBURO...
...WASN'T BUILT AS A DEFENSE AGAINST FOREIGN NATIONS AS THEY SAY IN THE HISTORY BOOKS.
I ACTUALLY CAME HERE TO FIND MARTINA.
TO BE HONEST, I WAS SURPRISED TO SEE YOU HERE.

IT'S A WELL DEFENDED STRONG-HOLD, TO BE SURE.
...BUT ITS PRIMARY FUNCTION IS MORE SINISTER.
THE CORIN-THIANS BUILT THIS PLACE...
...TO KEEP CERTAIN "INTERNAL INFORMATION" SECRET.
ARE YOU REFERRING TO THE SANTOGIQUE ARTIFACTS THAT WERE DIVIDED BETWEEN ARSENAL AND THE CORINTHIANS?
THAT'S RIGHT.
THEY'RE RIGHT HERE IN THIS CITY.

MARTINA FOUND OUT THE DETAILS OF WHAT'S BEING HID HERE.
IT SEEMS THAT ARSENAL SOMEHOW FOUND OUT AS WELL.
THE CARDINAL OF SETENBURO HIMSELF DIDN'T EVEN KNOW ABOUT IT.
RECENTLY...
...MARTINA HAS BEEN TRYING TO GET CLOSE TO THE CARDINAL.
FROM THIS POINT ON, EVERY-THING I SAY IS GUESS-WORK.
SINCE MARTINA ISN'T HERE, I'M ASSUMING SHE WENT TO THE CARDINAL'S PLACE.
BEFORE DALGLISH ARRIVES HERE...
...THERE MUST BE SOMETHING THAT SHE WANTS TO GET DONE.

DALGLISH WILL ARRIVE HERE TOMOR-ROW.
I NOTICED THAT HIS PROCESSION IS MOVING UNUSUALLY SLOW.
I THINK IT'S A TRAP.
SOME-ONE IS PLANNING TO AS-SASSINATE THE CARDINAL.
.....
DALGLISH...

ZAKARO.
AND IF MARTINA WENT AGAINST HIM ALONE, SHE MIGHT HAVE BEEN CAPTURED.
MY GUESS, TOO.
DON'T TRY AND STOP ME.
I'M GOING TO GET HER BACK FROM HIM.
I SUGGEST THAT YOU GUYS GET OUT OF HERE AS SOON AS POSSIBLE.

WHY DIDN'T YOU TRY AND STOP HIM?
I KNOW.
WHETHER HE SUCCEEDS OR NOT, THEY'LL TRACK HIM BACK TO THIS PLACE.
YOU KNOW THAT, DON'T YOU?!
BUT I COULDN'T STOP HIM!
.....

GINORA...
...DON'T TAKE YOUR FRUSTRATIONS OUT ON HIM.
WITH FATHER MILA DEAD, IT WAS ONLY A MATTER OF TIME BEFORE OUR ENEMIES CAME HERE, ANYWAY.
W-WELL... I GUESS YOU'RE RIGHT, BUT...
COME TO THINK OF IT, THIS MAY ACTUALLY WORK OUT IN OUR FAVOR.
AS LONG AS DOGA IS FIGHTING AGAINST THEM, THIS PLACE WILL BE SAFE. WE SHOULD GET MOVING.
BUT SOME OF THE CHILDREN ARE TOO SICK TO MOVE...
NO PROBLEM.
EVEN ZAKARO WOULDN'T WASTE TIME KILLING CHILDREN WHO ARE ALREADY SICK, RIGHT?
WE CAN COME BACK FOR THEM WHEN THE TIME IS RIGHT.
.....

STEEAM
I SEE. IF WORKING FROM INSIDE THEIR BODY WON'T WORK, THEN TRY FROM THE OUTSIDE.
GOOD IDEA, CAPRIA.
HUFF
HUFF
HUFF
HUFF

NO ... IT ... GOOD FEELS ... ...
IS THAT TOO COLD?
EEK
CLICK

FATHER SOCRATES.
HM?
PLEASE...
...TEACH ME TO BE A DOCTOR.
.....

I'M NOT LEAVING THIS PLACE...
...BECAUSE THE MOST IMPORTANT THING TO ME...
...IS RIGHT HERE.

...AND TAUGHT ME THINGS...
JUST AS EVERYONE HAS ALWAYS HELPED ME...

...TO DO THE SAME.
...THIS IS MY CHANCE ...

I'LL ALWAYS BE HERE FOR YOU.
EVERY-THING WILL BE OKAY.

.....

End of Passage 14

Last Passage: The Decision

DOGA IS CAUSING A DIVERSION.
BOOM
!
IT'S ALREADY BEGUN.
I SEE...
IT'S TIME FOR US TO DECIDE AS WELL...
...WHICH PATH WE WILL TAKE.

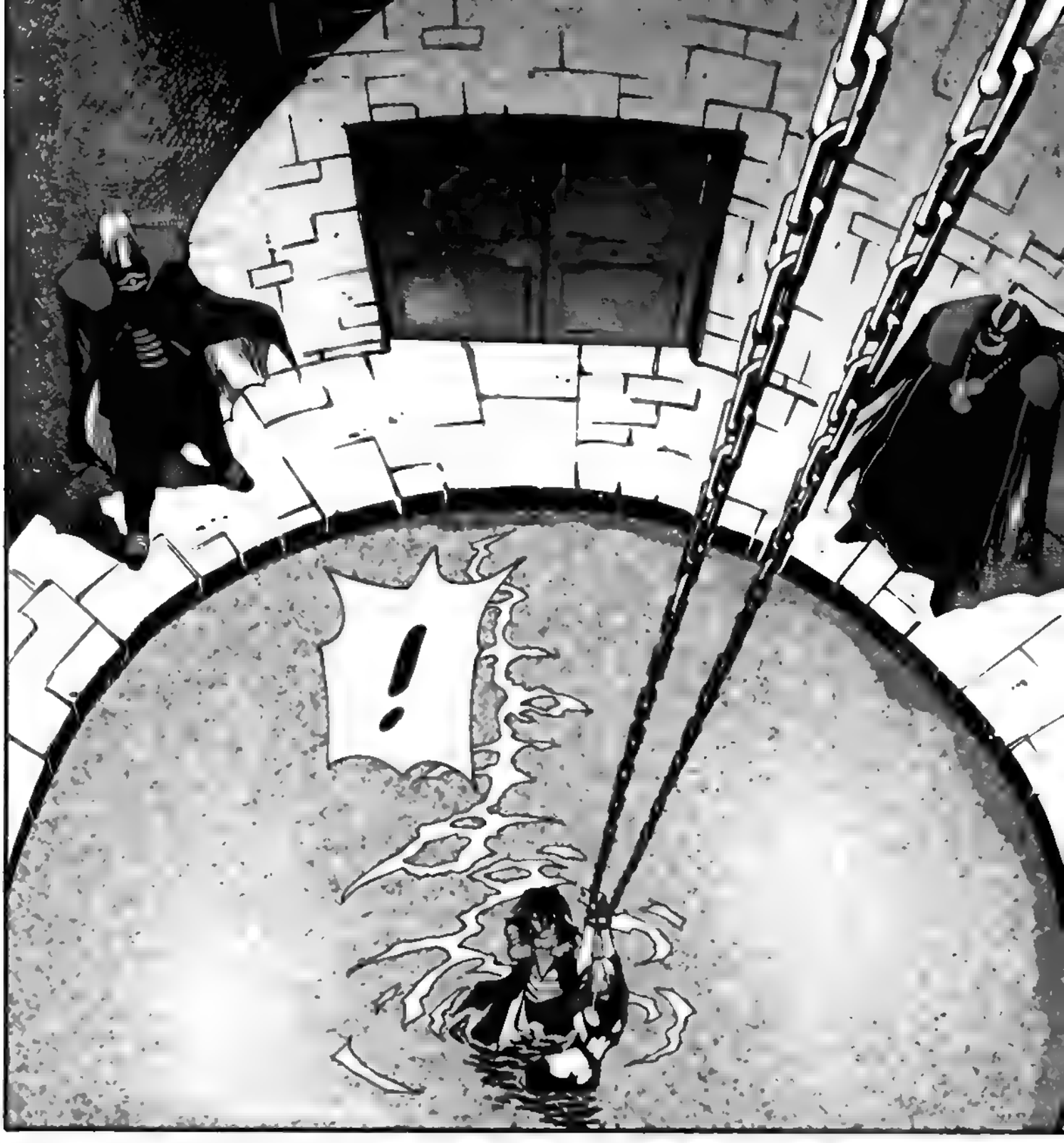
NO MORE SOUL-SEARCHING.
NOW IS THE TIME FOR ACTION.
OUR HEARTS KNOW WHAT IS RIGHT.
JUST ASK YOURSELF...
..."WHAT SHOULD I DO?"
IT'S AS SIMPLE AS THAT.

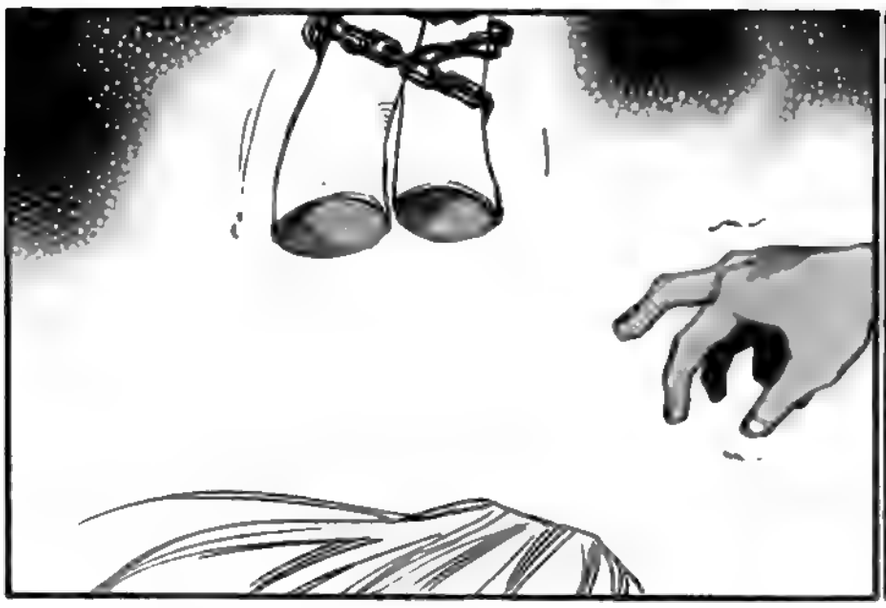
CLACK

MARTINA!

CREEEAK

SPLASH
MARIA?
SLAM!
SIGH





SHIT!
SPLASH
I SCREWED UP.

YOU MUST BE DOGA?
WELCOME TO THE EXECUTION ROOM.

.....
.....

.....
HUH
WELL... AT LEAST I CAN WALK.

LONELY,

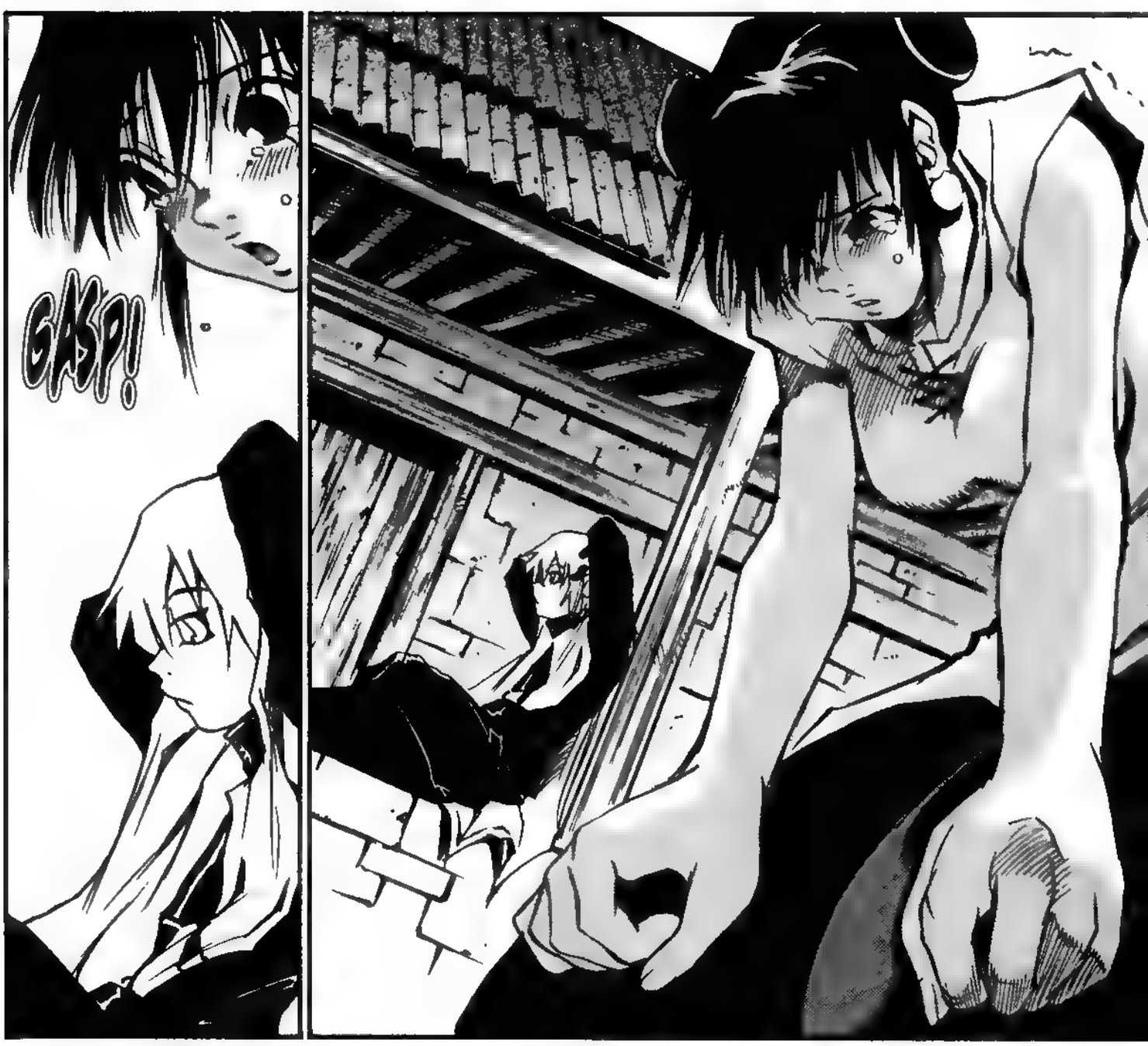
.....
CAPRIA.
.....

I CAME HERE TO SAY GOOD-BYE.
BUT SOME-DAY SOON...
...I HOPE TO SEE YOU AGAIN.

I DON'T SEE LUCICCI ANY-WHERE.
SHE IS AN INNOCENT GIRL.
SHE MUST HAVE FOLLOWED DOGA...
...NOT REALIZING THE DANGER SHE'S RUNNING INTO.
LEONEDUS...
I HAVE TO STOP HIM...
I HAVE TO STOP HIM!
IF HE LEAVES NOW TO GO FIGHT...
...HE MAY NEVER COME BACK HERE.
I HAVEN'T HAD A CHANCE TO TELL YOU WHAT I NEED TO SAY!
PLEASE DON'T GO!

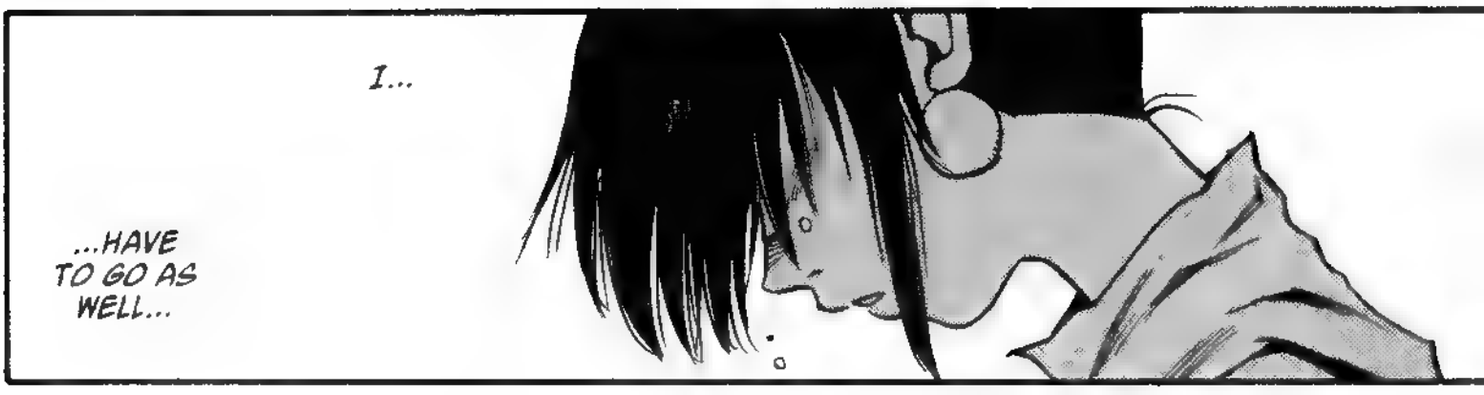
"JUST ASK YOURSELF, 'WHAT SHOULD I DO?' IT'S AS SIMPLE AS THAT."
ALWAYS...
...FROM THE BEGIN-NING...
...HE FOUGHT...
...FOR US.
HE SUFFERED SO MUCH...
...AND HE LOST SO MUCH.
...TODAY... FINALLY TODAY...
I HAVE TO TELL HIM...
.....
...TO ...DAY ...
LEONE!!

PROMISE ME...
PROMISE ME THAT...
...SOMEDAY WE'LL SEE EACH OTHER AGAIN!
YEAH...
I PROMISE.


GASP!

NO...
HE WAS LOOKING AHEAD TO THE FUTURE.
YOU SAW THE LOOK ON HIS FACE, RIGHT? THAT WASN'T THE LOOK OF A MAN BENT ON REVENGE.
HE'LL BE FINE.
HOW COULD I SAY NO?
...HE WAS PRACTICALLY BEGGING ME TO GO SAVE LUCICCI.
THE WAY KRISTEN WAS LOOKING AT ME...
YEAH.
ARE YOU GOING, TOO?
ACTUALLY, THAT'S NOT WHY I'M GOING.
WE'LL MAKE SURE NO ONE COMES HERE.
NO WORRIES.
...
SOCRATES AND KRISTEN ARE STAYING WITH YOU.
AFTER ALL...
I'M SURE YOU'LL BE FINE.
WE WON'T BE COMING BACK HERE BUT I'M SURE WE'LL SEE EACH OTHER AGAIN SOMEDAY.
WE'LL GO IN, RESCUE MARTINA AND GET OUT. PIECE OF CAKE.
REALLY...
...I JUST WANT TO MAKE SURE I'M THERE WITH LEONEDUS WHEN HE FIGHTS.

WELL...
SEE YA!


I...
...HAVE TO GO AS WELL...

...TO THE PLACE WHERE PEOPLE ARE WAITING FOR ME.

WOOSH
SWOOSH
CLANK

KLANG
BAM!
!
WHY ARE YOU HERE?!
LUCICCI!
DOGA!
BOOO

SPLAASH
...!
LEO!
WOOSH!!!

THESE ARE NO ORDINARY ASSASSINS.
BE CAREFUL, LEONEDUS.
I'LL BE FINE NOW THAT I'M OUT OF THIS WATERY TRAP.

THEY'RE THE APOSTLES' PERSONAL BODYGUARDS.
I KNOW.

YOU'LL NEVER BE ABLE TO GO BACK TO NEO ARSEN.
ARE YOU SURE ABOUT THIS?
THE MESSAGE IS WITHIN ME.
ARSENAL, CORINTHIAN-- IT MAKES NO DIFFERENCE TO ME.
...CAUSE ME TO LOSE THE PEOPLE I CARE ABOUT EVER AGAIN.
I WON'T LET DOCTRINE ...
KKN

...LIKE LEONEDUS.
GARRINCHA...
IT LOOKS LIKE YOUR TEACHINGS WILL LIVE ON THROUGH YOUR DISCIPLE.
AND MAYBE SOME-DAY...
...THIS CONFLICT WILL END IF WE CAN ALL LEARN TO FOLLOW OUR HEARTS TO A PEACEFUL FUTURE...

-The End of Testarotho-

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THE BIZARRO LIFE OF SANAE KEI
'02.10
THIS IS THE LAST INSTALL-MENT OF MY BIZZARO LIFE.
I APOLOGIZE FOR ENDING THE SERIES THIS WAY.
EXTRA BIG APOLOGY BOW.
I HAVE REALIZED HOW POWER-LESS I AM.
OOPS. THIS PICTURE DOESN'T LOOK LIKE A SERIOUS APOLOGY AT ALL...

I SUPPOSE I SHOULD EXPLAIN A LITTLE WHY IT ENDED HOW IT DID.

BUT FIRST, AS LONG AS YOU'RE STILL HERE...

...I'LL GO OVER THE MATERIALS THAT I DIDN'T GET TO EXPLAIN IN THE STORY.

MARTINA IS LUCICCI'S BIOLOGICAL MOTHER. SHE HAD HER WHEN SHE WAS 15. IN THE STORY MARTINA IS 29.

LUCICCI'S FATHER IS UNKNOWN IN THE STORY.

THIS IS THE WOMAN WHO WAS MASQUERRADING AS MARTINA IN THE FINAL CHAPTER.

I GUESS I SHOULD HAVE ADDED A SCENE WHERE SHE'S TAKING OFF HER WIG...

BECAUSE I LEFT OUT EXPLANATIONS AT CERTAIN SCENES WHERE I FELT THAT I DIDN'T NEED TO EXPLAIN RIGHT THEN...

MORE EVENTS WERE SUPPOSED TO HAVE HAPPENED BEFORE LEONEDUS AND HIS GROUP ARRIVED IN SETENBURO...

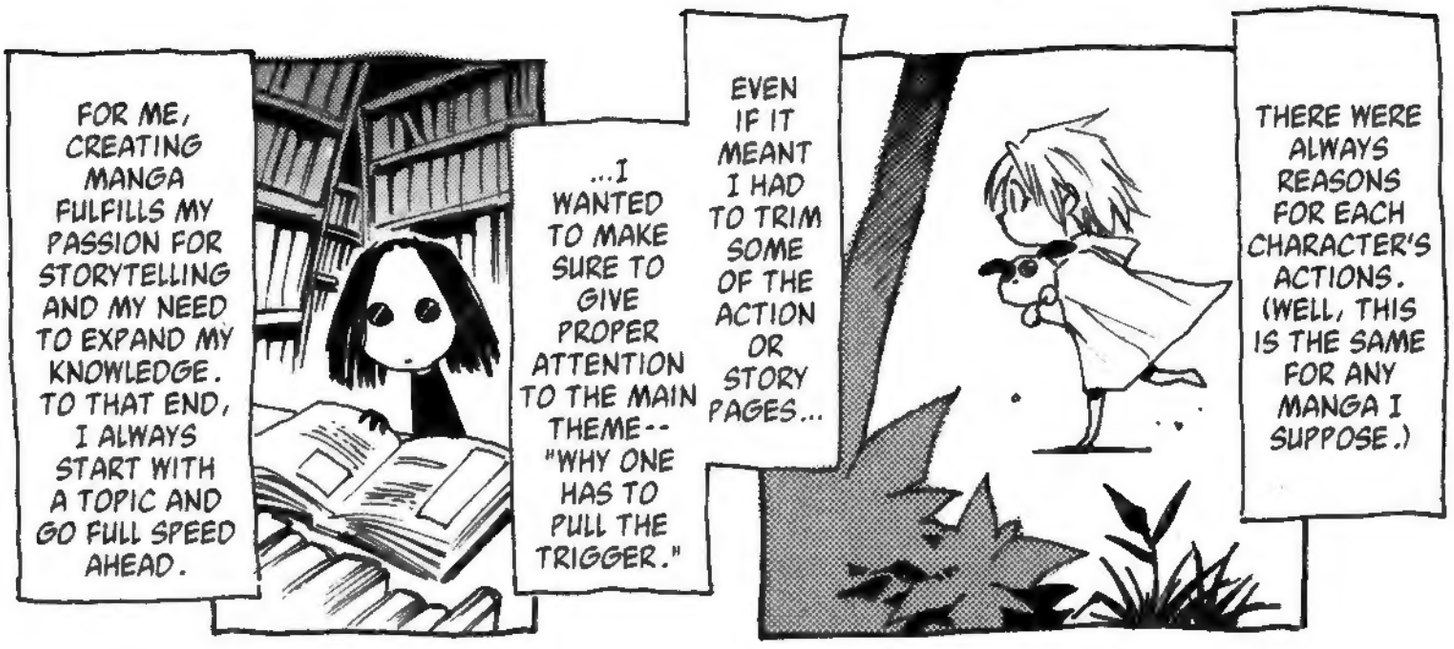
...SOME OF THE SCENES MAYBE SEEMED LIKE IT WAS HAPPENING TOO SUDDENLY AND/OR SOME MAY SEEM TOO OVER-WHELMING.

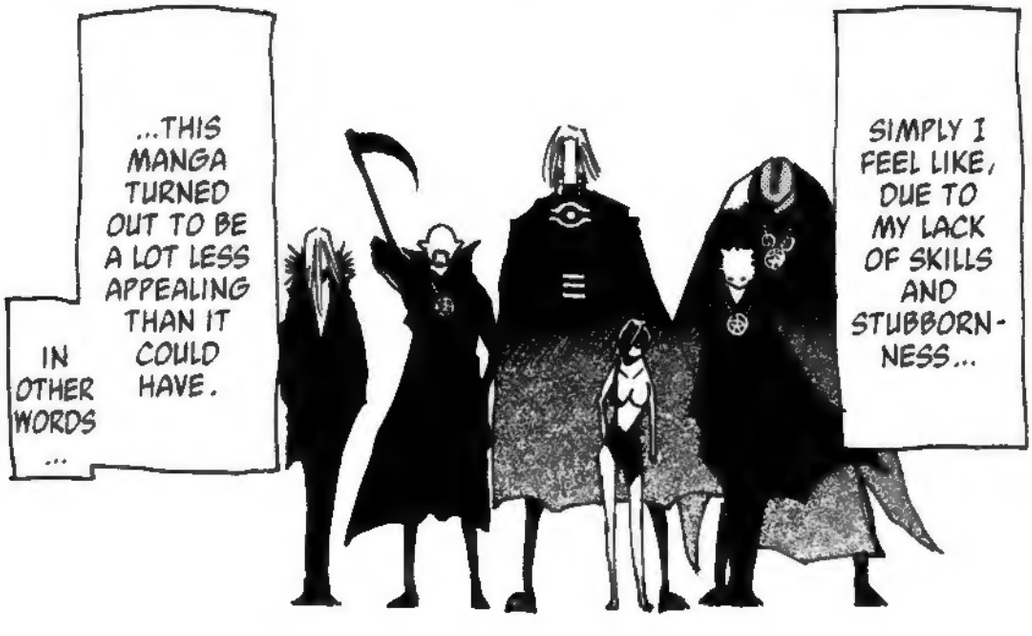
SOLSKIA IS STANDING BEHIND GARRINCHA IN ONE OF LEONEDUS' MEMORY SCENES.

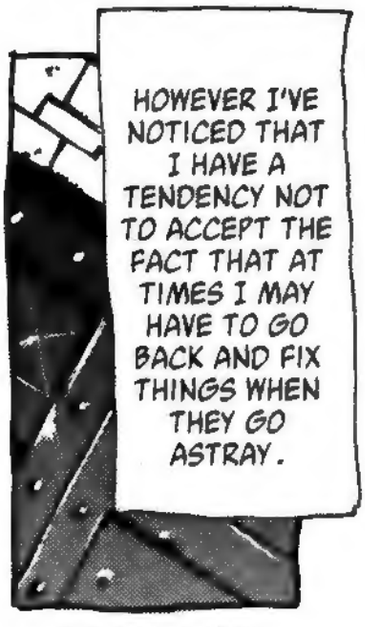
PLEASE TRY LOOKING FOR HIM.

THE TWIN AS-SASSIN GIRLS ARE SOCRATES' DAUGHTERS.

THE REFUGEE WOMAN WHO GARRINCHA SAVED WAS DOGA'S MOTHER.

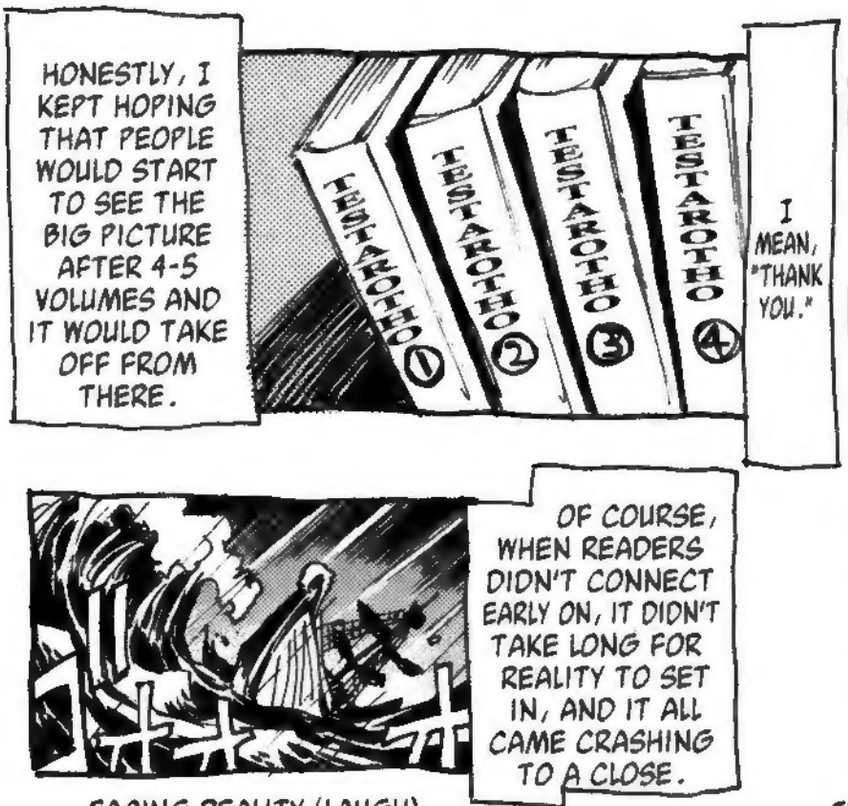

FOR ME, CREATING MANGA FULFILLS MY PASSION FOR STORYTELLING AND MY NEED TO EXPAND MY KNOWLEDGE. TO THAT END, I ALWAYS START WITH A TOPIC AND GO FULL SPEED AHEAD.
...I WANTED TO MAKE SURE TO GIVE PROPER ATTENTION TO THE MAIN THEME-- "WHY ONE HAS TO PULL THE TRIGGER."
EVEN IF IT MEANT I HAD TO TRIM SOME OF THE ACTION OR STORY PAGES...
THERE WERE ALWAYS REASONS FOR EACH CHARACTER'S ACTIONS. (WELL, THIS IS THE SAME FOR ANY MANGA I SUPPOSE.)


IN OTHER WORDS ...
...THIS MANGA TURNED OUT TO BE A LOT LESS APPEALING THAN IT COULD HAVE.
SIMPLY I FEEL LIKE, DUE TO MY LACK OF SKILLS AND STUBBORN-NESS...


HOWEVER I'VE NOTICED THAT I HAVE A TENDENCY NOT TO ACCEPT THE FACT THAT AT TIMES I MAY HAVE TO GO BACK AND FIX THINGS WHEN THEY GO ASTRAY.

ANNOYING SELF ANALYSIS (LAUGH)

I'D FEEL HUMBLE.


HONESTLY, I KEPT HOPING THAT PEOPLE WOULD START TO SEE THE BIG PICTURE AFTER 4-5 VOLUMES AND IT WOULD TAKE OFF FROM THERE.
TESTAROTHO ①
TESTAROTHO ②
TESTAROTHO ③
TESTAROTHO ④
I MEAN, "THANK YOU."
OF COURSE, WHEN READERS DIDN'T CONNECT EARLY ON, IT DIDN'T TAKE LONG FOR REALITY TO SET IN, AND IT ALL CAME CRASHING TO A CLOSE.

FACING REALITY (LAUGH)

JUST A JOKE. PLEASE DON'T GIVE UP ON ME. (LAUGH)

I STILL HAVE MANY OF MY ROUGH SKETCHES AND AM WONDERING WHAT TO DO WITH THEM...
IF I PUBLISH A COLLECTION BOOK USING THEM WOULD ANYONE BE INTERESTED IN CHECKING THEM OUT? (PERHAPS AS A DOJINSHI.)
IF JUST FIVE PEOPLE SAY YES, I'LL ACTUALLY CONSIDER IT.
WOOSH
WELL, ON TO THE NEXT TOPIC ...
THE COVER ART FOR V. 4 WAS A PIECE THAT I ORIGINALLY PLANNED ON USING FOR V. 3 COVER BUT IT WAS CANCELLED DUE TO IT'S IRRELEVANT CONTENT.
I DIDN'T WANT TO WASTE IT SO I USED IT HERE.
SO ANYWAYS (WHAT WAS MY POINT?), IT'S TIME TO SAY GOOD-BYE.
DING
DONG
IF I'M LUCKY, I'LL SEE YOU AGAIN SOME-TIME!
GOOD-BYE!
EVERY-ONE WHO SUP-PORTED ME...
REACH.
DAM-MIT.
THANK YOU SO MUCH.
THANK YOU.
THANK YOU.
THANK YOU.
SO MANY "THANK YOU'S."
PUNK
WHY ARE YOU PLAYING GO?!

A CONSPIRACY THAT WILL DESTROY THE CHURCH...

It started like any other mission. Leonedus and his companions came to Corinthia to quell the heretics and spread the word of Arsenal. Instead, they uncovered a vast conspiracy that goes all the way to the top of the church. They are now outlaws, working with their former enemies, the Materia rebels, to find out who set them up and why. When Materia's top leaders are captured by Arsenal assassins, Leonedus must stand against his former masters. After a lifetime of serving Arsenal can Leonedus continue to kill now that he's found his conscience?

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